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Ordoñez–lawyer, poet, diplomat– dies at 86

METRO / A19

Police officer handling Dalaig case relieved over missing money

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MILF allays MNLF fears on new pact

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Bangladesh cyclone toll nears 3,000

SPORTS / A23

Bob Arum still wants Pacquiao-De La Hoya dream fight

Top ZTE protagonists 'not believable'–survey

By Inquirer staff

ON THE EVE OF THE RESUMPTION OF THE Senate hearing on the broadband deal, Pulse Asia released a survey that showed 58 percent of Filipino adults, or three in every five, felt that all of the key protagonists in the scandal were "equally not believable."

Pulse Asia yesterday said 68 percent of

TOP ZTE/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, November 20, 2007 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 345 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Climate change imperils decades of Asia progress

BANGKOK—WORSENING WEATHER AND higher sea levels caused by climate change could reverse decades of social and economic progress across Asia and the Pacific, according to a report released Monday by a coalition of environmental and humanitarian groups.

The report, "Up In Smoke? Asia and the Pacific," warned that communities across the

CLIMATE/ A15

World Bank defers RP loan, probes graft

$232M for roads on hold

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD BANK HAS put on hold a $232-million soft loan for a major road-building program in the Philippines after irregularities supposedly involving bid rigging were uncovered during the first phase of the project, officials said yesterday.

In a statement from Washington, World Bank vice president for the East Asia and Pacific Region, Jim Adams, said signs of procurement problems in the first phase cropped up starting in 2003.

"Between 2003 and 2006, the World Bank rejected two

WORLD BANK/ A4

MALACAÑANG PCPO PHOTO

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO walks ahead of the Asean leaders who have gathered in Singapore for the 13th Asean Summit. Behind her are, from left, Indonesian President Bambang Yudhoyono, Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Brunei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah.

8 SBMA execs face raps over 'hot' cars

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) has recommended the filing of charges against eight officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) for alleged conspiracy in the smuggling of luxury vehicles through the Subic Bay Freeport.

Three sources on Monday confirmed that the recommendation had been sent to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. The charges included falsification of public documents and violations of the antigraft law.

The recommendation covered SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza, Deputy Administrator Jose Calimlim, seaport manager Perfecto Pascual, customs collector Marietta Zamoranos and four other BOC officials, according to an SBMA official who obtained a copy of the report on Friday.

The source was not among those to be charged.

Arreza and Calimlim are presidential appointees to the SBMA, a state corporation overseeing the conversion of the Subic Naval Base into an economic zone.

"We've sent formal charges,"

8 SBMA/ A4

Asean Charter OK hinges on Suu Kyi release

By Norman Bordadora

SINGAPORE—PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo told her allies in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) last night that the Philippine Senate would have "extreme difficulty" ratifying the group's landmark charter unless Burma (Myanmar) moved onto the path of democracy and freed opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Ms Arroyo served the notice on the eve of the signing of the Asean Charter and hours after the United States criticized the 10-nation group over its handling of military-ruled Burma.

The charter calls for respect of democracy and human rights and pledges to set up a regional human rights body.

In a statement at last night's dinner of the Asean leaders, Ms Arroyo said: "The belief of the Filipino people and the Philippine Congress, as well as my own, (is) that those who will sign the Charter agree to the objective, spirit and intent of establishing a human rights body—the full protection of human rights within the Asean."

"With this in mind, the expectation of the Philippines is that if Myanmar signs the Charter, it is committed to returning to the path of democracy and release Aung San Suu Kyi."

Ms Arroyo added: "Until the Philippine Congress sees that happen, it would have extreme difficulty in ratifying the Asean Charter."

Suu Kyi, the symbol of Burma's yearning for democracy, has spent 12 of the last 18 years under house arrest.

ASEAN CHARTER/ A10

Malacañang denies talk of corruption

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG YESTERDAY denied that concerns over corruption led the World Bank to reject two large road-building contracts, worth around $33 million, in the Philippines.

Public Works Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said the decision to cancel three biddings in 2006 was "precisely to eliminate the root of the problem."

He made this assertion in a memorandum to Secretary Cerge Remonde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff.

MALACAÑANG/ A4

Only 25% keen to oust corrupt RP president

ONLY 25 PERCENT OF FILIPINOS are willing to take drastic measures to oust a president linked to corruption, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey.

This notwithstanding the survey's finding that three in five Filipinos (59 percent) believe a president should resign from office if s/he is involved in graft and corruption, s/he tolerates such wrongdoing or a member of his/her family is implicated.

The survey was conducted from Oct. 20 to Oct. 31, using face-to-face interviews with a

ONLY 25%/ A4

PNP: Blast planned in ex-solon's store

NCR-CIDU CIDG
DETAINEE
NCR-CIDU CIDG
DETAINEE
NCR-CIDU CIDG
DETAINEE

POLICE present Batasan bombing suspects Caidar Aunal, Adham Kusain and Ikram Indama at the Department of Justice where criminal charges were filed against them on Monday.

REM ZAMORA

By Leila B. Salaverria

THREE DETAINED SUSPECTS in last week's Batasan bombing that killed Rep. Wahab Akbar were named yesterday in a police complaint filed with the Department of Justice that gave details of how it was planned and carried out by assassins known to Akbar's political rivals.

The complaint said that the suspects had confessed that the bombing targeted Akbar and that it was planned at the Greenbucks Grocery, owned by former House Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin, who ran and lost against Akbar's wife in the elections for Basilan governor in May.

Aides of Salapuddin and another Basilan politician, Mindanao party-list Rep. Mujiv Hataman, were named in the complaint filed by the Philippine National Police.

Akbar, 47, and three congressional aides were killed in the Nov. 13 blast at the Batasan south wing driveway. Twelve others were wounded, including Representatives Henry Teves and Luzviminda Ilagan.

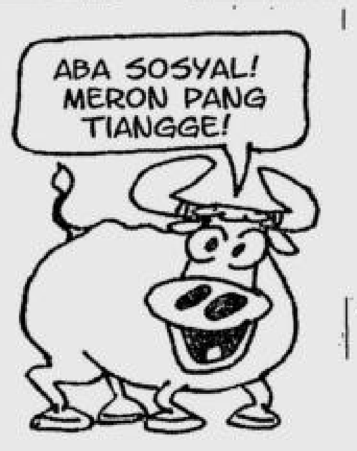
Salapuddin and Hataman were not among those named in the complaint. The two had stepped forward to deny involvement in the unprecedent-

PNP/ A5

Police arrested last night another man and invited a second for questioning in connection with the Batasan bombing.

Director Geary Barias of the National Capital Region Police Office identified the arrested man as Dorie Kalahal, a former mayor of Tuburan, Basilan. The second man was identified as Halik Usman, also of Tuburan.

The two were picked up at Don Pepe's Inn on San Andres Street in Manila. Police recovered two motorcycles, one of which was dismantled and found positive for nitrates, an explosives component, Barias said, adding that one of the motorcycles was supposedly used as a backup during the Batasan bombing.


ABA SOSYAL! MERON PANG TIANGGE!

Gonzalez back at DOJ after going to 'hell'

By Leila B. Salaverria

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez went to "hell and back" and when he reported for work yesterday, he was welcomed with balloons, streamers and even a flea market.

Addressing employees of the Department of Justice, Gonzalez recounted his medical ordeal, thanking everyone who prayed for his recovery

GONZALEZ/ A10

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The provinces of Cebu, Bohol, Northern Negros, Iloilo and Guimaras Island will experience stormy weather with rough to very rough seas. Northern Mindanao and the rest of Visayas including Palawan will experience rains which may trigger flashfloods and landslides, and occasional gusty winds. And the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. Palawan and the rest of Mindanao will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms while Luzon will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers.

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Stormy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	**Roxas**	Stormy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	**Cebu**	Stormy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	**Tacloban**	Gusty Winds
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**Zamboanga**	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**Cagayan de Oro**	Gusty Winds
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

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Senate may probe Glorietta blast

Escudero urges colleagues to act on Trillanes resolution

WHAT'S INSIDE

KIDS LEARN about respect at PDI Read-Along /A11

DEPED STARTS 'Learning beyond 4 walls' program /A9

MORE PINAYS smoke than other Asians, says study /A9

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Tina G. Santos

IN THE WAKE OF CONFLICTING FINDINGS IN the Glorietta mall explosion, Sen. Francis Escudero yesterday urged his colleagues to act on the resolution of Sen. Antonio Trillanes for the Senate to conduct an independent probe of the blast.

"I don't know why it has not been acted upon but I agree that the Senate should look into it now," said Escudero in a text message to the INQUIRER.

"I bewail the inequity that when prominent people are victimized, government action is swift but not in the case of the Makati blast where ordinary Filipinos were victimized," said Escudero, referring to the swift resolution of the Batasang Pambansa bombing last week.

Trillanes had filed Senate Resolution 174 calling on the public order and illegal drugs committee to investigate the Oct. 19 blast at Glorietta 2 in Makati City that killed 11 people and injured over a hundred others.

Sen. Gregorio Honasan, chair of the committee, has sat on Trillanes' petition.

Trillanes, who has yet to leave his detention cell and attend his first Senate session, claimed that he received information implicating National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon in the Glorietta 2 blast just hours after the bloody incident.

The police, backed by international experts, said the blast was more likely caused by the buildup of gases in the mall's basement due to a damaged sewage system. But Trillanes has stood pat on his claim and said he was ready to present his witness in a Senate hearing.

Investigators, meanwhile, have yet to submit a final report on the Glorietta blast.

2-3 weeks more

In a press conference yesterday, metropolitan police chief Geary Barias said he needed at least two to three weeks more to finish his investigation.

He said investigators were examining the air vents in the basement of the mall that led to other parts of the building to possibly explain the extensive damage.

At the same time, the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday started examining pieces of evidence it had gathered from the blast site.

Among the evidence recovered from the mall basement were five submersible pumps and circuit breakers, motors and other electrical devices.

Before taking them away for tests, the NBI inspected the evidence in front of members of the media and representatives of Ayala Land Inc., owner of the mall, who attested to the authenticity of the items.

Senior Supt. Felimor Jaudian, chief investigator of the Inter-Agency Anti-Arson Task Force (IATF), said two of the submersible pumps appeared clogged and four were uncovered.

"There were indications that the system could have been clogged but further tests are still necessary to really determine that," Jaudian told reporters.

Jaudian said the submersible pumps were "material" to the analysis of how the gases had ignited.

Barias added that the task force's analysis of the air vents also aims to find out "if there was a bomb that was involved there."

He said the IATF report was expected within the week but again stressed that this was not the final report.

No charges yet

Barias also denied a report in a major daily that the Department of Justice was set to file charges against the mall owner.

"The filing of the case is premised on the final outcome of the investigation. Whatever is the outcome of the investigation, the DOJ will have to assess what legal moves to take," Barias said.

Barias was supposed to present a significant progress yesterday but said the investigation was delayed because of the work on the air vents.

ALI has contested the gas build-up hypothesis of the police, saying there was nothing wrong with the sewage system of the mall. It urged police to look for other angles in their investigation. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Opposition snubs hearing that junked impeach case

By TJ Burgonio

IN A CONTINUING PROTEST, OPPOSITION congressmen yesterday boycotted a meeting of the House committee on justice that went on to dismiss the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"We're going to boycott it. We don't have anything to do with it," Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said in a phone interview before the meeting.

Parañaque City Rep. Roilo Golez, who attended the hearing of another committee, agreed: "We're not interested in the impeachment. That's the majority's play."

Rodriguez and Golez are among the six opposition members of the justice committee.

Minutes after convening, the members of the justice committee, chaired by Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor, unanimously approved the committee report finding the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido "insufficient in substance."

Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis, who endorsed the Pulido complaint, dissented but left before the committee approved its finding.

"It's immaterial [if the oppositors were not around]," Defensor told reporters, pointing out that an absolute majority of the 55-member committee was sufficient to approve the report.

"If they're not going to participate in the plenary, what can we do? It's going to be submitted to the plenary just the same."

The committee report was set to be transmitted to the committee on rules last night, which would calendar it for business in the plenary.

The committee on Wednesday last week had declared the Pulido complaint insufficient in substance and voted 43 to one to junk it, virtually giving the President a one-year immunity from impeachment.

Under the Constitution, only one impeachment complaint can be filed against an impeachable official a year.

Pulido's complaint centered on charges of corruption surrounding the controversial $329-million National Broadband Network project of the government and the Chinese firm ZTE Corp, among others.

Rodriguez said the 30-member minority would manifest its protest against the dismissal of an addendum to the complaint filed by lawyer Adel Tamano, but would not take part in the vote on the committee report in the plenary.

"I don't see 80 brave souls to go against this. First of all, the complaint is weak and a sham. I don't think we will vote for its reversal," he said.

Sedfrey Ordoñez, lawyer, poet, ambassador to UN, dies at 86

FORMER JUSTICE SECRETARY and former United Nations Ambassador Sedfrey Ordoñez passed away Sunday afternoon at the Makati Medical Center weeks after suffering a stroke. He was 86.

He is survived by his spouse, Josefina, and children, Roberto, Philip, Cristina and Helen. His remains lie in state at the Sanctuarium on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City. Interment will be at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, on Nov. 22.

Ordoñez, who in January 1999 was appointed general counsel of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, was born on Sept. 1, 1921. He was justice secretary when the Philippine government suggested a barter deal to settle a multibillion-dollar damage suit against the Westinghouse Electric Corp. for the Bataan Nuclear Power Plant that was mothballed by the Aquino administration.

Con-con delegate

He represented the second district of his province, Nueva Ecija, as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1970.

Under the Aquino administration, he assumed the position of solicitor general in 1986 and justice secretary from 1987 to 1989. He also served as chair of the Presidential Committee on the Philippine Nuclear Power Plant.

In 1987, he briefly served as chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

From 1990 to 1992, he served as Philippine ambassador to the United Nations.

He also served as chair of the Commission on Human Rights from 1992 to 1995 and was Construction Industry Administration commissioner in 1999.

He served at the Unesco Conciliation and Good Offices Commission from 1977 to 1983. In 2000, he sat as adviser of the Advisory Commission of Jurists in the Asia Pacific Forum held in Rotorua, New Jersey.

Ordoñez attended the college of liberal arts and the college of law of the University of the Philippines in 1940-1941. He earned his law degree in 1948 at the Manuel L. Quezon University and his master's in law from the Philippine Law School in 1954.

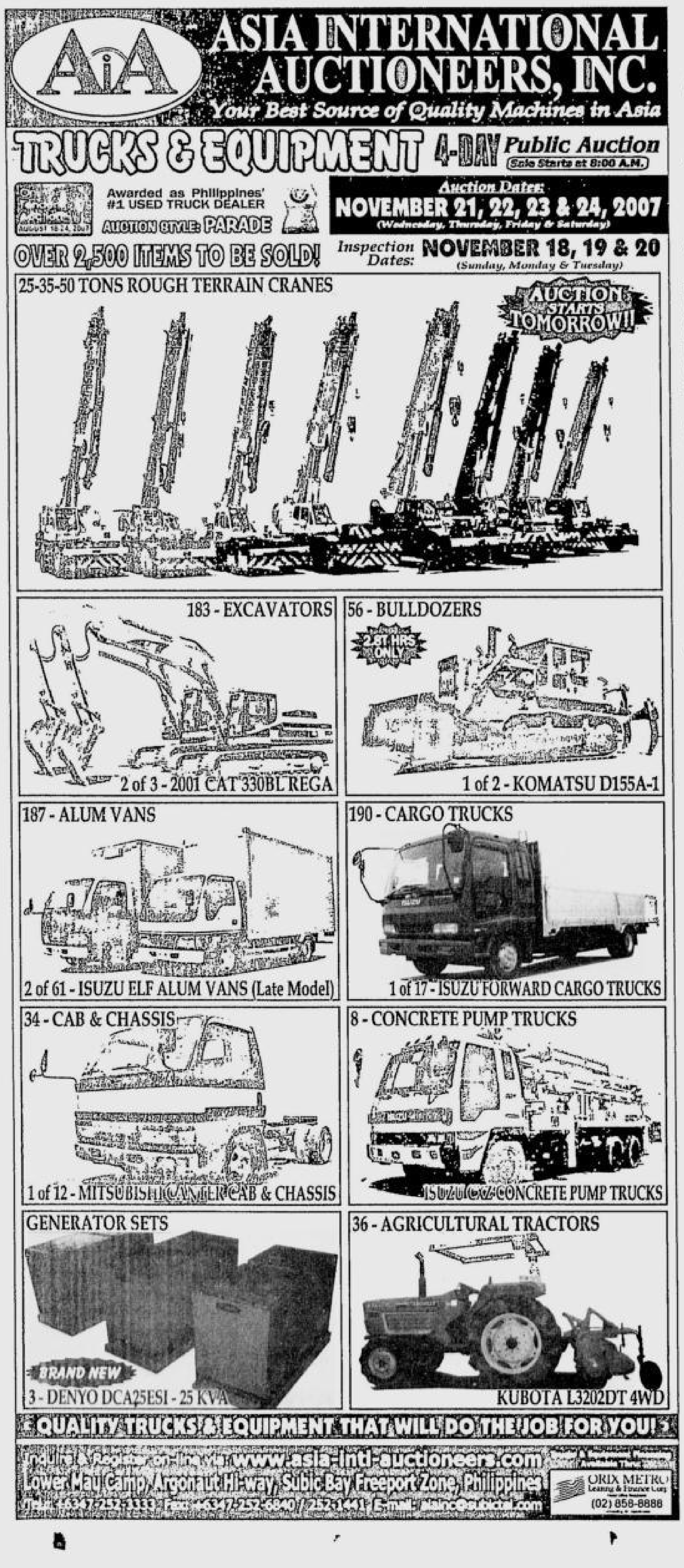
He also attended the Ateneo University graduate school of business from 1973 to 1974.

Ordoñez was managing partner of the Salonga, Ordoñez and Yap Law Office from 1953 to 1986 and was a lecturer of remedial law from 1950 to 1986 at various universities.

He also served as chair of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center from 1996 until his demise and was a professional arbitrator of the Philippine Institute of Construction Arbitrators.

Bilingual

Ordoñez was also a bilingual poet. His published works include "Wounded Pearls" (Mga Sugatang Perlas), a three-act play set to music as opera and performed at the New York City Town Hall in April 1992; "Sikhay sa Kabila ng Paalam," a three-act play set to music by Dr. Francisco Feliciano and performed as music-drama; the lyrics of "Heroique," set to music by Jeffrey Ching and performed in Makati City, 1991; "Pag-ibig" lyrics, set to music by Dr. Lucrecia Kasilag, National Artist, and performed in 1994 in Quezon City; "Arayat Cabiao," a book of poems and plays in English and Filipino; "Nuclear Poems," a collection of poems in Filipino, published in 1997, and "Life Cycle: 50 years in Law and Letters," published in 1999. *Inquirer Research*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Docs reinsert tube in Saguisag's airway

By DJ Yap

FORMER SEN. RENE SAGUISAG was back to writing notes to his family yesterday after doctors reinserted the breathing tube in his airway after he experienced difficulty breathing without a respirator.

Two more procedures were scheduled to be performed on him yesterday: The replacement of the chest tube that drained fluids from his left lung and the insertion of a caval filter to remove the blood clots in his lower extremities.

Otherwise, he remained in stable condition, according to Dr. Victor Alvarez, the neurosurgeon who heads the team of specialists monitoring Saguisag's condition.

The doctor, however, said the preventive procedures, which were not life-threatening, meant that the former senator might have to stay in the intensive care unit "for a while."

Alvarez said doctors would also perform a tracheostomy on Saguisag to help him breathe easier.

"Instead of [the tube] passing through the mouth to the lungs, it will be transferred from the neck to the lungs," he said.

"The main advantage of this is that it will be easier to remove the secretions and it will help save his vocal chords."

The breathing tube was removed from Saguisag's airway last Friday and was reinserted on Sunday.

As for Felipe Calvario, Saguisag's driver, Dr. Eric Nubla, chief of the hospital's patient relations office, said he remained in stable condition.

"Regarding Calvario, we are not having problems with his respiration. The only thing that's keeping him in the hospital is that he hasn't awakened completely. He has opened his eyes but he doesn't recognize people," Alvarez said.

Saguisag's son Rebo told the media that his father did not wish to make any statement at present.

Rebo said the family had not shown Saguisag the video of his wife Dulce's funeral last Friday.

"Our decision is to wait for him to ask for it because we don't want to unduly jeopardize his emotional state," he said.

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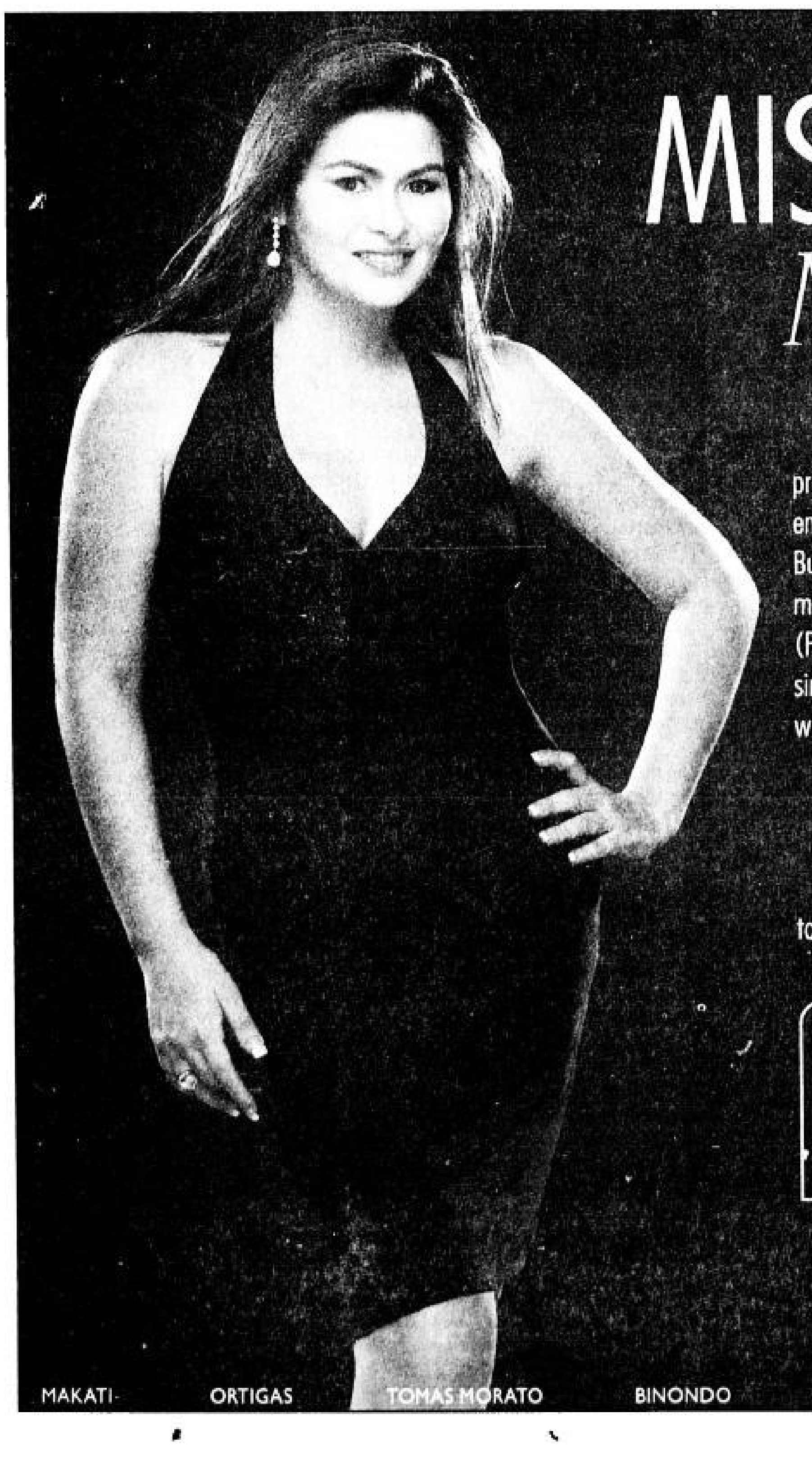

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marie france

World Bank defers RP loan, probes graft

From page A1

large road contracts in three successive rounds of bidding because of strong signs of collusion and excessive pricing," Adams said.

He said a World Bank team and other stakeholders reported the irregularities to the bank's internal investigation unit—the Department of Institutional Integrity (INT)—which, in turn, launched an investigation.

The World Bank governing board's postponement of a decision on the loan is unusual and is the first project involving corruption issues to reach the board since Robert Zoellick became president in July, replacing Paul Wolfowitz, who resigned after an ethics scandal.

Corruption is a major problem in the Philippines, particularly when large infrastructure problems are up for grabs.

Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos last month resigned his post following allegations of bribery in the $329-million National Broadband Network deal with the Chinese telecommunications firm ZTE Corp. which he supposedly brokered. Abalos has denied any wrongdoing.

Another Chinese firm

The World Bank statement did not identify what companies were involved in the alleged bid rigging.

Citing World Bank officials, the Wall Street Journal said the firm China State Construction Engineering, which won a $6.2-million contract for road maintenance in the Philippines in 2002, tried to rig bids with a cartel of construction firms in later bidding rounds.

No one from China State Construction Engineering, a state-owned company based in Beijing, was immediately available for comment, according to a Reuters report.

The Wall Street Journal described China State Construction as one of the world's largest construction firms.

It said the firm started a Philippine subsidiary in 1989 and had been involved in at least 16 projects in the country.

A matter of timing

"It was more an issue of timing than anything else. The board had questions about what had been done to strengthen this project," said World Bank spokesperson Peter Stephens.

He said board members wanted to read a report into the first phase of the project (2000-2007) by the bank's internal investigation unit, whose findings were published on the same day phase two went for approval to the board.

Stephens said the World Bank's Philippine office and the Philippine government had drawn up anticorruption measures for the second phase of the project.

"We worked with the government and civil society groups and we put in place a number of pretty tough anticorruption measures and this is part of the second phase which is why the second phase was, in our view, able to be put to the board," Stephens said.

The measures incorporated in the project design included:

- An independent procurement assessment and technical audit that strengthens transparency of the bidding process.
- Enhanced processes for procurement, financial management, internal controls and audits of the road management agencies.
- Inclusion of a new and innovative coalition of citizen and road user groups, called "Road Watch" in the project management setup.

A civil society-led "Road Watch" group was envisioned to be created to monitor project implementation and procurement and issue periodic report cards on the performance of the road sector.

"With the INT report now completed, the discussion of the phase two project at the board has been deferred until the government and the board members receive the information they have requested," the bank said.

The World Bank said 382 kilometers of roads had been built or upgraded across the Philippines in the first phase of the project and 975 km of existing roads had been resurfaced and maintained across the archipelago, where a dilapidated transport network hinders development.

Other World Bank sources said the board decided to suspend discussions on the phase two of the project "until an internal review of the project is done and finalized."

For its part, the Philippine government was also seeking access to the INT report for its own review, the sources said.

They added that since the irregularities involved collusion, no single contractor should be pinned down.

The complete list of contractors hired for all projects were listed on the World Bank website.

$150-M for phase I

The Philippine project is officially called the National Roads Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP).

Adams said the NRIMP was the Philippine government's main tool for upgrading the country's road management through stronger business processes and reformed institutions for financing and managing roads.

He said that during the first phase of the program, the government made major progress toward putting in place a modern, transparent and accountable national road management system.

"Some 90 percent of the project goals were achieved ... As a result, people throughout the Philippines have benefited through a more efficient and transparent road system, improved access to social services, lower transport costs and reduced traveling times," he said.

Adams said the World Bank would continue to support the Philippines and remain actively engaged with government and civil society on strengthening governance and fighting corruption.

The government and World Bank Philippines were planning to conclude discussions on the second phase of NRIMP last June.

Under NRIMP-2, about 700 km of national highways were supposed to be rehabilitated and upgraded and preventive maintenance undertaken for about 2,000 km.

NRIMP-1 was approved by the World Bank under a 20-year loan agreement in 2000. The bank initially disbursed $150 million for the first phase.

With a report from Reuters

IN THE KNOW

World Bank project

PHASE 1 OF THE NATIONAL Roads Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP), implemented by the Department of Public Works and Highways, originally aimed to upgrade about 530 kilometers of national roads and carry out maintenance work on about 230 km of national roads.

Included in the project were:

- La Trinidad-Mount Data section of Halsema Highway in Benguet
- Buug-Kabasalan section of Zamboanga City-Pagadian Road in Zamboanga del Sur
- Calinan-Buda section of Davao-Bukidnon Road in Davao City
- Various sections of Surigao-Davao Coastal Road in Mindanao
- Sulop-Malita section of Malalag-Jose Abad Santos Road in Davao del Sur
- Hinobaan-Basay section of Kabankalan-Basay Road in Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental
- a section of Maramag-Kibawe Road in Bukidnon
- Buda-Maramag section of Davao-Bukidnon Road in Bukidnon

Since 2000, about 382 km of roads had been built or upgraded, while 975 km had been maintained.

The total project cost was $305 million, almost half of which was financed by a World Bank loan. The World Bank approved a $150-million loan to the Philippine finance department on Feb. 15, 2000.

By the time it stopped funding the road project on March 31, 2007, the World Bank had released over $138 million in loans.

The second phase of the program has a total cost pegged at $574 million. The World Bank is among the proposed funding sources for the project. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

Malacañang denies talk of corruption

From page A1

Ebdane said the World Bank deferred discussions on approval of Phase 2 of the National Road Improvement and Management Program (NRIMP) "citing procurement problems which led to the declaration of the failed bids for three different projects."

Ebdane said he promptly ordered an inquiry into the three failed bids cited in the World Bank report.

"Given the precedents in relation to the three bids, I decided to cancel the bidding to remove the source of the problem," said Ebdane. But in order to continue the projects, he said he had requested President Macapagal-Arroyo "for possible local funding for the three projects."

He said the projects were "package portions of the first phase of NRIMP implemented in 2000," to wit: the Marihatag-Barobo-Tagbina-Hinatuan section in Surigao del Sur; the San Enrique-Valle Hemosa Road in Negros Occidental, and the Cabancalan-Basay Road in Negros Occidental.

Ebdane said among the issues to be resolved was compliance to the approved budget ceiling (ABC) as required by the World Bank.

Each of the three bids in question was above the ABC, which led to the eventual declaration of failed bidding, said Ebdane.

But he noted the same bank also recently approved a project with a bid amount exceeding the ABC.

"We must be very clear about the criteria and apply the criteria equally and consistently for our objective of reforming the road management system to really be effective," Ebdane said.

Remonde said the NRIMP II had a budget of P6 billion to rehabilitate national roads in north Luzon (234 km), south Luzon (221 km), Mindanao (201 km), Mindoro (102 km), Negros (119 km) and Panay (225 km).

Remonde said Ms Arroyo created the Pro-Performance Infrastructure Monitoring Group to precisely "ensure the transparency and efficiency of road and other infrastructure projects."

8 SBMA execs face raps over 'hot' cars

From page A1

a PAGC source said when asked for confirmation. The source declined to be identified, citing the confidentiality of the work of the agency.

PAGC Chair Constancia de Guzman declined an interview on Monday.

Hidemitsu imports

In the PAGC's protocol, formal charges are recommended when the agency has found probable cause for the filing of criminal or administrative complaints against presidential appointees.

At the core of the case is the smuggling of 16 of 24 mostly new luxury cars imported by Hidemitsu Trading Corp., a locator at the freeport. The cars were admitted to the port on Sept. 27, Oct. 5 and Oct. 6 last year, and taken out without gate passes in February.

The case findings were based on the consolidated reviews done by the BOC and the PAGC, the SBMA source said. The government lost P6 million in that single smuggling incident, the agency reported.

"The case is weak. It did not recommend charges against the smugglers, not even naming John Does as conspirators," the source said.

"This is Morales' work," the same source said, referring to Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales as the one who hatched the case. "They were made the sacrificial lambs in [the BOC's antismuggling campaign]."

But Morales, in a text message to the INQUIRER, denied that he was behind the recommendation. "No, that's wrong. [The] PAGC is an independent agency," he said.

'Without SBMA control'

Arreza said he, Calimlim and Pascual "maintain our stand that the smuggling happened without SBMA knowledge and control."

"We were not a party to the undervaluation of taxes or registration of cars with the [Land Transportation Office]," Arreza said in a phone interview.

Aside from disclosing the full details of the Hidemitsu case in a March 15, 2007, report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, the SBMA chair said he issued a seizure order on the smuggled cars.

Calimlim had reported recovering the cars in Angeles City and Quezon City in March.

Alonso Dominguez, Hidemitsu president, said his South Korean partners took out the cars without his authority.

Zamoranos said she was "not yet around when the transactions were consummated," noting that she assumed her post on Nov. 14, 2006.

"I am not a presidential appointee so the PAGC has no jurisdiction over me," she said.

Zamora declined to name the four other BOC officials.

Respondents' positions

Arreza said Ermita's office had required the respondents to submit their positions in 10 days. The customs officials will also submit their answers, said Zamoranos.

A businessman, who used to smuggle out cars in Subic, said between 3,000 and 5,000 vehicles were being taken out of Subic yearly without proper documents and correct taxes through the connivance of the SBMA, BOC and LTO officials.

A Malacañang source, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to talk about the issue, said the full report of the PAGC had been submitted to Ermita last week.

The respondents will be required to file affidavits to give them a chance to rebut the PAGC's findings. Based on the answers, Ermita may either reverse or affirm the findings, and file a case with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Only 25% keen to oust corrupt RP president

Sufficient level for a president to resign from office (October 20-31, 2007)

	Location
	RP
If there is strong evidence that he/she or a member of his/her family is involved in graft and corruption	34
The linking of his/her own name in an investigation of graft and corruption	2
The linking of the name of even only one member of his/her family to an investigation of graft and corruption	19
A president's tolerating graft and corruption among government officials	18
None of those mentioned	7

Q: In your opinion, which level is sufficient for a president to resign from office?

More credible person on the ZTE Broadband deal issue

	Location
	RP
Jose "Joey" De Venecia III	22
Benjamin Abalos	12
Romulo Neri	8
They're all equally not believable	58
Don't know	0

* BASE: AWARE OF THE ALLEGATION OF BRIBERY REGARDING ZTE DEAL, 70% / SOURCE: PULSE ASIA INC.

From page A1

multistage probability sample of 1,200 representative adults. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Issues dominating the headlines at the time of the survey included the cash handouts in Malacañang, renewed calls for the resignation of President Macapagal-Arroyo and the planned revival of impeachment complaints against her, the explosion at the Glorietta 2 mall, the rift between Ms Arroyo and House Speaker Jose de Venecia, the controversial ZTE deal, and the granting of pardon to deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The survey, undertaken by Pulse Asia on its own, asked respondents what they considered to be "sufficient reasons" for a president's resignation. Twenty-two percent cited the president being linked to corruption, while 19 percent said a member of his/her family being implicated. Eighteen percent said a president tolerating graft was sufficient reason for his/her resignation.

One in every three Filipinos (34 percent), on the other hand, thought there should be "strong evidence of involvement in graft and corruption" of the president or of his/her family.

What will respondents do?

When asked what steps they were willing to take to have a president removed from or forced out of office, only one of four respondents (25 percent) said they were willing to go "beyond public rallies and marches," or "do whatever is necessary to have a president resign or be removed from office."

Such a sentiment was most notable in the Visayas (34 percent) and least pronounced in Metro Manila (21 percent).

"What most Filipinos (61 percent) are willing to do is sign public petitions advocating the resignation or the removal from office of a president," Pulse Asia said in a statement.

This preference for signing petitions was shared by "near to big majorities" (47-78 percent) across all geographic areas and socioeconomic groups.

Ready to join rallies

On the other hand, 26 percent of respondents said they were ready to join public rallies or marches, while 27 percent said they were willing to speak out in such events. Nearly one in every three (28 percent) said they would discuss the issue with friends and acquaintances.

Pulse Asia also noted that the preference for discussing the issue with friends was most pronounced in Mindanao (39 percent). Those in the Visayas and Mindanao were also most inclined to speak out in rallies and marches (39 percent and 38 percent) or to join such activities (35 percent and 38 percent), while those in the rest of Luzon were least inclined to engage in any of the three activities (16-21 percent). *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 20, 2007
33rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 2 Mac 6:18-31
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

When Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the city, a man named Zacchaeus was there. He was a tax collector and a wealthy man. He wanted to see what Jesus was like, but he was a short man and could not see because of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree. From there he would be able to see Jesus who had to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly for I must stay at your house today." So Zacchaeus hurried down and received him joyfully.

All the people who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to the house of a sinner as a guest." But Zacchaeus spoke to Jesus, "The half of my goods, Lord, I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will pay him back four times as much." Looking at him Jesus said, "Salvation has come to this house today, for he is also a true son of Abraham. The Son of Man has come to seek and to save the lost."

Commentary

Individuals endure horrific tortures in refusing to break the laws of their religion (as insignificant as they may appear to be to us). Even the elderly and those who have access to power are called to obey or to die. The old man knows that his choice and his dying will impact many. So he proclaims this in public so as to give courage to those younger than him. What example do we give to those who are younger than us—in our lifestyles, in what we chose or refuse to do or be a part of, and in standing against our nation when it is necessary in regard to moral issues of life and death? Anyone can at any moment decide to follow Jesus—like Zacchaeus, a notorious tax collector who was wealthy (probably by cheating his own people and taking more from them than was required). Yet Jesus invites himself to his house. We must be careful that those we speak ill of and despise may be more intimate with Jesus than we ever have been. We need to examine ourselves.

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Party-list lawmaker denies hand in Batasan blast

By TJ Burgonio

ANAK MINDANAO PARTY-LIST Rep. Mujiv Hataman yesterday denied he masterminded the Batasang Pambansa bombing and decried attempts to link him to the killing of Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar.

Hataman's denial came hours after Speaker Jose de Venecia and Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. met with Police Director General Avelino Razon to map out new security measures for both chambers.

One of the measures being eyed is the adoption of a security force similar to the US Capitol Police Force in Washington.

Shortly after the session started, Hataman took to the floor and delivered an emotional privilege speech, where he denied that he had ever employed Ikram Indama, one of the three detained suspects.

"It's easy to check this lie. The records are all in the House of Representatives," he said.

Hataman said he knew Indama to be a driver of former Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin, but got to know his name only when it was flashed on TV days ago.

"According to reports, I've been named by Ikram Indama as a mastermind, along with Representative Salapuddin. I don't know what's the basis for this, and if this is sufficient for the authorities to believe him," he said.

Unfazed

"But I remain unfazed and without fear because my conscience is clear. As long as the investigation is thorough and impartial, I'm hopeful that the truth will come out and eventually clear my name," Hataman said.

He denounced statements by Lantawan Mayor Tahira Ismael, Akbar's niece, linking him to the latter's killing.

MUJIV HATAMAN: My conscience is clear. JOAN BONDOC

"But to pinpoint me and single me out as one of the suspects in public is the biggest of all the injustices they have done to me in the last 10 years of my life," he said.

Hataman said he idolized and campaigned for Akbar, when he ran for governor in 1998 on a platform of a graft-free, progressive and peaceful society, and then served as his executive secretary during his two terms.

Cracks in relationship

"Modesty aside, I was with him when he first ran for public office without a machinery, and when he faced arrest for his involvement with the Abu Sayyaf," Hataman said.

Cracks in their relationship began to show only in 2002 when Hataman, as a human rights advocate, opposed the local government's crackdown on suspected Abu Sayyaf members, the congressman said.

On top of this, people from Basilan started trooping to his office at the House to complain about corruption, election fraud, illegal logging, among other things, during Akbar's watch, he added.

"In all these instances, never was there a moment of violence between us, or our families," Hataman said.

PNP: Bombing planned in ex-solon's store

From page A1

·ed attack on the House of Representatives after their names cropped up in the police investigation.

PNP Director General Avelino Razon yesterday told the INQUIRER that the identities of those who gave the assassination order were provided by the detained suspects, but he declined to elaborate. "They are not considered the masterminds," Razon said.

Barias said other personalities were being looked at and that investigators were attempting to confirm if the suspects were members of the Abu Sayyaf.

On Sunday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita ruled out any participation by Salapuddin, a former commander of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), in the assassination, calling him an "honorable man." Ermita helped negotiate Salapuddin's surrender to the government in 1984.

Named in the complaint for murder and frustrated murder were Caidar Aunal, 41; Ikram Indama, 35, and Adham Kusain, 21.

The three men were arrested following a gun battle at Barangay Payatas near the Batasan complex in Quezon City two days after the bombing. Killed in the fire fight were Abu Jandal, an alleged member of the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang, and Redwan Indana and his wife Saing.

Preliminary investigation

Police were serving an arrest warrant on Jandal for kidnapping when the gun battle broke out.

Senior State Prosecutor Peter Ong said a preliminary investigation would be held on Nov. 29 at the justice department, following which formal charges would be brought against the suspects if warranted.

Also charged were Benjamin Hataman, alias Jang, who was at large and was identified as a staff member of Congressman Hataman, two identified only as John and Mike Doe, and the three killed in the Payatas raid.

In his letter-complaint, Senior Supt. Asher Dolina said Indama had admitted to his involvement in the bombing that was meant to kill Akbar and had disclosed that the plan was hatched in Salapuddin's Greenbucks grocery.

Indama, previously identified as Salapuddin's former driver from whom a House of Representatives ID was seized along with a congressman's No. 8 car plate, was also given P10,000 by Redwan for his expenses, Dolina said.

Motorcycle bomb

According to Dolina, Indama said that he brought the motorcycle armed with the bomb to the Batasan on Nov. 12 to carry out the assassination. However, he was told by Benjamin Hataman that Akbar would not come that day.

The next day, Indama went back to the Batasan complex. At 4 p.m., he parked the motorcycle at the left side of the south wing lobby, went to the cashier and then stayed in the lobby where he received a text message from Benjamin Hataman.

The bomb was electronically detonated by cell phone at the south wing of the Batasan complex, police previously said.

Indama also named his cousin Redwan and his wife Saing, Benjamin Hataman, Jandal and Aunal, whom he said was Salapuddin's brother-in-law, as among those who planned the bombing, the complaint said.

Jilbert Ortega, chief of the Complaints and Investigation Unit of the House of Representatives, said he saw Indama at the south wing on Nov. 13, according to Dolina.

Salapuddin house

Kusain said in his affidavit that he lived in the Quezon City house of Salapuddin when he arrived in Manila in March 2005 up to the present. He said Salapuddin was a friend of his father Ahmad.

Salapuddin also owned the Quezon City house where suspect Indama lived, Dolima said.

Airport attendant

Kusain said Salapuddin had sent him to school for one year, where he took up Computer Science, and later got him a job as a building attendant at the Centennial Terminal 2 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Kusain owned the motorcycle that was allegedly used in the bombing. He also said in his statement that Redwan took his motorcycle for an important matter, and was promised P50,000 or a new motorcycle in return.

He said he asked why the motorcycle was being taken, but was only told it would be used for something. On Nov. 15, the day of the police raid on Redwan's home, he said he was there to wait for the payment for his motorcycle when police barged in and the gun battle broke out.

Kusain also said he only learned that his motorcycle was the one used in the bombing after the raid. He also said that as far as he knew, Redwan was a former MNLF guerrilla.

Abu Sayyaf role

Akbar's niece, Tahira Ismael, said in an interview before the filing of the complaint that she believed the Abu Sayyaf was behind the blast. She said her uncle, a former Abu Sayyaf member who later supported a government crackdown against the bandit group, had received threats through text messages even before the barangay election last month.

She also said one of the suspects, Indama, was a relative of an Abu Sayyaf commander in Basilan who allegedly spearheaded the beheading of members of the Philippine Marines. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

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PALL MALL TAX CLASSIFICATION

AN APPEAL FOR FAIRNESS

The issue of the tax classification of British American Tobacco's (BAT) cigarette brand Pall Mall continues to be the subject of contention. Despite a Department of Finance (DOF) ruling last July 24, 2007 which affirms the final excise tax rate of P6.74 per pack – the same as other mid-price cigarette brands in the country – Pall Mall continues to labor under an environment of uncertainty.

When we introduced Pall Mall in the Philippine market in August 2004, we did so with a strong belief that we would do business on a level playing field. **Fair competition, a principle which the Philippine government adheres to, and in fact actively encourages and endorses, was a commitment and a pledge made to foreign investors.**

Today, these are all being put to a severe test. The tax classification of Pall Mall is being challenged by our competitors despite the clarity of the tax laws and regulations. There are efforts to mislead the public regarding these issues.

WHY P6.74 IS THE CORRECT TAX RATE

La Suerte, BAT's licensee in the Philippines, has been paying an excise tax rate of P5.60 per pack (now P6.74 per pack) for Pall Mall since its introduction in August 2004. This is based on the net retail price as stated in the manufacturer's declaration. Pall Mall, being a mid-price brand, is subject to an excise tax of P6.74 per pack, the same as all other brands in this price bracket.

The law provides for a defined process for the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) to validate and then revalidate the net retail price through price surveys, and based on this, to determine the final excise tax classification. The first price survey is to be conducted three months from product launch. The second price survey is to be conducted 18 months thereafter for revalidation. The BIR is then required by law to issue the final excise tax classification based on the results of these surveys.

The BIR did not conduct the requisite price surveys within the prescribed periods. The law clearly stipulates that **if the BIR fails to conduct the requisite price surveys, the proper tax classification shall be based on the net retail price as stated in the manufacture's declaration. On this basis alone, Pall Mall should have been granted its final excise classification as a mid-price brand, at a resultant excise rate of P6.74 per pack.**

The BIR finally conducted a price survey on December 22, 2006, but only after it was directed by the DOF to do so. **This is 28 months after Pall Mall was introduced into the local market.**

The BIR's belated price survey showed that **Pall Mall was indeed priced within the mid-price segment with an actual gross retail price of P14.00 per pack.** This was further confirmed by an independent price survey carried out simultaneously by AC Nielsen in 133 stores in Metro Manila.

Again, despite the very clear results of the price survey – results that validated the tax classification of P6.74 per pack – former Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag failed to render the proper and logical resolution of the matter. Disregarding the results of his own survey, Commissioner Buñag issued on February 22, 2007 a ruling classifying Pall Mall at the premium segment with an applicable tax rate of P26.06 per pack, almost twice Pall Mall's retail price of P14.00 per pack!

DUTY FREE EXCISE RATE IS NOT APPLICABLE

Why? Commissioner Buñag classified Pall Mall at the premium segment on the sole basis of the rate paid by Duty Free Philippines (DFP) when it imported Pall Mall for sale in its outlets in December 2004, or **five months after the locally manufactured Pall Mall had already been introduced into the domestic market.**

Again, the public is being misled by erroneous statements and unfounded allegations regarding Pall Mall's entry into the Philippine market. There is absolutely no truth to allegations that imported Pall Mall sold at Duty Free Philippines shops were introduced ahead of the local Pall Mall brand. Local Pall Mall was introduced in August 2004, and Duty Free Philippines began importing Pall Mall in December 2004.

Curiously, Commissioner Buñag appeared to have backtracked when, in his letter to the DOF dated June 13, 2007, he admitted that "based on the results of the price survey on (Pall Mall) and its variants conducted last December 22, 2006, the respective average net retail prices thereof, excluding the value added and excise taxes, is P6.15 per pack **with the applicable (excise) tax rate of P6.35 (now P6.74).**"

NO DOWNWARD CLASSIFICATION = NO LOSS OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE

Even the question of downward tax classification, for which BAT and La Suerte have been criticized and put to task, should have been a non-issue. Downward classification presumes that a brand has been finally classified, and that subsequent introductions of the same brand can not have a lower rate than that which has already been established. But as stated, the local Pall Mall was introduced ahead of the Duty Free Pall Mall. And furthermore, there was never a final classification for Pall Mall until the DOF issued its July 24, 2007 decision. Since there is no downward classification in the Pall Mall case, the related allegation of government loss of revenue if the P6.74 rate is enforced is simply not true.

FAIR COMPETITION : WHAT IT IS ALL ABOUT

If the BIR had its way, and its February 22, 2007 ruling is enforced, Pall Mall would be the only locally-manufactured brand that would be paying the highest excise rate of P26.06 per pack.

We believe **this is not what fair competition is all about**. We believe our competitors are over-reacting to our entry into the local market. The misinformation that prevails today over issues like proper tax classification, downward classification and a level playing field for all continue to stunt the growth of foreign investors like BAT. We seek only fairness, and a chance to grow the company, providing jobs and business opportunities for Filipinos. We do not seek preferential treatment, nor do we expect any. What we seek is the **proper application of the law to all.**

We wonder, for instance, why the BIR insists on a tax classification of P26.06 per pack for Pall Mall when it had already validated the brand's retail price at P14.00? Hope and Winston have a retail price of P23.00 – higher than Pall Mall's – and yet these brands are taxed at P6.74 per pack!

As for taxing the same locally-made brands and Duty Free brands differently, this is nothing unusual. All Duty Free cigarettes are taxed at the highest tax bracket. **Marlboro and Philip Morris 100's have a Duty Free Philippines tax rate of P26.06 per pack (premium brand) and yet their local tax rate is only P10.88 (high-price brand). Winston has a Duty Free Philippines tax rate of P26.06 per pack (premium brand) and yet its local tax rate is only P6.74 per pack!**

So why must Pall Mall be any different? ***Hindi patas ang laban.***

When BAT entered the Philippine market in August 2004, it did so with a vision of growth and expansion. We remain focused on our goal despite the challenges that have been thrown our way, and we remain hopeful that in the end, fairness and equality will rule the day.

THIS IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Answer writ filed by moms, court orders AFP officer

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DIRECTED A military officer to respond to a petition for a writ of amparo filed by two mothers seeking freedom for their sons who were allegedly abducted in Quezon province.

The high court issued its fifth writ of amparo on Friday in response to a petition filed by Leny Panganiban and Maria Ortiz.

Under the writ of amparo, the Armed Forces of the Philippines or the Philippine National Police cannot simply deny involvement in abductions or extrajudicial killings. They must also prove they are not involved and, on court order, open their detention facilities for inspection.

Supreme Court spokesperson Jose Midas Marquez said Lt. Col. Ramon Tello was directed to file his return to the writ of amparo before the Court of Appeals by Nov. 21.

The respondent should state in his return the action he has taken, his defense, and the action he will take.

A hearing has been set for Nov. 23 for the petition of the mothers who asked that their children, Jeffrey Panganiban and Juvy Ortiz, be released after they were allegedly arrested last month and taken to the 76th Infantry Battalion camp in Quezon.

Jeffrey and Juvy were reportedly suspected of being members of the communist New People's Army.

Hurt by captors

Juvy supposedly told relatives who visited him at the camp that they were hurt by their captors.

The mothers said that since no charges had been brought against their sons they should be released. They also asked for an inspection order for the camp.

The Court of Appeals was set to hold yesterday its first hearing on the petition for a writ of amparo filed by activist Leny Robiños seeking the release of her brother Romulos, who was allegedly abducted by the military in exchange for Leny's surrender.

In the petition filed by Leny and her mother Lolita, they asked that the military be directed to release Romulos and Ryan Supang and for the military to stop harassing all four of them.

The Robiños also asked for an inspection order for military detachments and safehouses, including the house used by retired Gen. Jovito Palparan Jr. at Clark Air Base.

Ruel Muñasque is the first known case of a detainee released since the Supreme Court introduced the writ of amparo on Oct. 24 to stem the tide of extrajudicial killings and "forced disappearances" in the country.

Muñasque is a Bayan Muna organizer and a leader of the Christian Youth Fellowship-United Church of Christ in the Philippines. He walked home a free man on Nov. 7, the same day the Pagadian City Regional Trial Court granted his petition for a writ of amparo.

DOLE belays order lifting OFW ban to war-torn countries

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMployment yesterday put on hold its latest order partially lifting the deployment ban to Afghanistan, Nigeria and Lebanon of Filipino workers, saying there were renewed security concerns in those countries.

Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said he told the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) to hold the implementation of Department Order No. 86-7, which was signed on Nov. 15.

The recruitment industry expressed dismay at this latest development and criticized the DOLE for recalling a department order without a valid reason.

But Brion said the security situation in those countries "could not be taken lightly," In a phone interview with the INQUIRER, he said there had been recent problems with the peace and order situation in Afghanistan and Nigeria, for example.

"I am not receding the department order. We are just doing whatever is necessary for the welfare of our overseas workers," Brion said.

"The department order would have opened the door to thousands of Filipinos who want to work in bases of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan, the International Red Cross, the Red Crescent and other UN-related organizations involved in reconstruction and development," said Emmanuel Geslani, consultant to a number of recruitment agencies in the country.

It would also allow the deployment of Filipinos to Nigeria, especially near the cities. In cases where the job site is in the troubled Niger Delta, would have to study the applications on a case-to-case basis.

In Lebanon's case, Geslani said, household service workers would finally be allowed to depart under the new $400-minimum salary policy.

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PASIG (7) 24-B Industria corner Commercio Kapasigan 0918-520-2644 (8) Unit 2 Urbano Velasco St Pinagbuhatan 407-2444 (9) Justice Jabson St. cor Lopez K Santos San Joaquin 974-1583
CAVITE (10) Gran Via Central, Tierra Nevada, Gen Trias 0922-992-6759
MANILA (11) 2883 Juan Luna St. Gagalangin, Tondo 0922-314-1914; (12) 806 Arlegui St. Quiapo 0921-980-0208; (13) Gate 54 Area C Zone 25 Brgy 275 Farola Binondo 535-3542
TAGUIG (14) 1 Bernardo St. cor. Bravo St. Signal Village 0920-200-2180
MALABON (15) Ever Supermarket,Gov. Pascual cor MH del Pilar 287-4653
BATANGAS (16) CM Recto cor Kap Simeon Luz Brgy6 Lipa 0918-558-7478
BULACAN (17) Lower Northern Hills, Malhacan, Meycauayan 496-9260
CALOOCAN (18) 167 JP Rizal, Maypajo 492-0228
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PARANAQUE (20) 366 Quirino Avenue, Baclaran 0917-852-0563
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Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines System, Diliman, Quezon City, through its UP System Bids and Awards Committee (UPS BAC) invites all interested **ADVERTISING AGENCY** to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract
Media Campaign Service for Print, Television and Radio	Php 12,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with **single contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding.** The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Issuance of Bid Documents	Start on November 16, 2007 (Friday), 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Submission of Letter of Intent	On or before November 21, 2007 (Wednesday 5:00 PM
Pre Bid Conference	9:00 AM, November 22, 2007 (Thursday)
Submission of Bids	On or before December 3, 2007 (Monday), 5:00 PM
Opening of Bids	December 4, 2007, (Monday) 9:00 AM

Sealed proposals should be submitted to the **UP System Supply and Property Management Office, Quezon Hall (Oblation Plaza), UP Diliman, Quezon City.**

Bid documents will be available from the UP System SPMO to bidders upon payment of a **non-refundable amount of Php 12,200.00 for bid documents and Php 500.00 for membership (first time bidders).** Contact person : **Mr. Isagani L. Bagus, Officer-In-Charge, UP System SPMO, Telefax: 926-4919.**

The University of the Philippines System reserves the right to reject any or all bids as well as waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) Professor **ARIEL S. BETAN**
Assistant Vice President for Administration and
Chair, UP System Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 20, 2007)

WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER
Mandurriao, Iloilo City
Fax No. 321-17-97
E-mail Address: wvmc@pldtdsl.net

Project Reference Number: 2007-003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DOH-Western Visayas Medical Center through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Procurement of one (1) unit brand new diagnostic color ultrasound scanner
Location : Western Visayas Medical Center
Brief Description : The Bidder shall provide the Delivery of the one (1) unit brand new diagnostic color ultrasound scanner
Approved Budget For the Contract : P7,000,000.00
Contract Duration : 24 months
Delivery Period : Within 30 days from date of Award

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 22-29, 2007
2. Pre-bid Conference	Dec. 3, 2007 – 2:00 p.m., Medical Center Chief Complex Upper Level
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (If single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity)	NA
4. Opening of Bids	Dec. 17, 2007 – Medical Center Chief Complex Upper Level
5. Bid Evaluation	Dec. 18-20, 2007
6. Post-qualification	Dec. 21-31, 2007
7. Notice of Award	Jan. 2, 2008

Bid Documents will only be available upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,500.00 to the Western Visayas Medical Center cashier.

Further, The Western Visayas Medical Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Your participation to this project is highly appreciated.

(Sgd.) **ESTHER J. NIEVALES**
BAC – CHAIRMAN

For inquiries, please contact Angie or Ivy of the BAC Secretariat at (033) 321 1420.

(PDI–Nov. 20, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
CHINA NICKEL MINING PHILIPPINES CORPORATION Suite 212 State Condo IV Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan City	Meng Liang Chinese	Coordinator Staff
PEOPLE ED LANGUAGE CENTER CORP. U-701,702,710 ALPAP II Bldg., Trade St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jeong Hwan Yu Korean	Operation Manager
PEOPLE ED LANGUAGE CENTER CORP. U-701,702,710 ALPAP II Bldg., Trade St., Madrigal Bus. Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Jinsu Park Korean	General Manager
CELCRICHA INTERNATIONAL, INC. 4374-A Dayap St., Palanan, Makati City	Kanghwa Lee Korean	Project Operator
CELCRICHA INTERNATIONAL, INC. 4374-A Dayap St., Palanan, Makati City	Hana Han Canadian	Project Manager
CELCRICHA INTERNATIONAL, INC. 4374-A Dayap St., Palanan, Makati City	Sung Moon Kim Korean	Project Operator
CHINA GEO-ENGINEERING (PHIL.) CORPORATION 15 Mindanao St., Marina Baytown East, Aguinaldo Blvd., Parañaque City	Bing Cao Chinese	Head of Financial Section
BS POWERTEC PHILS., INC. Unit 3-D Classica 1, 112 H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Jonghyoun Hong Korean	Manager
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Boon Yeow Low Singaporean	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Cailian Zheng Chinese	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Chee Shyong Pang Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Beng Piau Loh Malaysian	Chinese-language Sports Trader
OAKLEIGH CAPITAL LTD. 21/F The Enterprise Center, Tower II, 6766 Ayala Ave. Makati City	Hon Chuen Fong Singaporean	Chinese-language Customer Service Officer
LARSEN & TOUBRO INFOTECH LIMITED 24 & 27 Flrs., Tower 2, The Enterprise, 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Aditya Arvind Thakurdesai Indian	Systems Analyst
LARSEN & TOUBRO INFOTECH LIMITED 24 & 27 Flrs., Tower 2, The Enterprise, 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Vinod Krishna Chincholkar Indian	Systems Analyst
LARSEN & TOUBRO INFOTECH LIMITED 24 & 27 Flrs., Tower 2, The Enterprise, 6766 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Prasad Madhukar Musale Indian	Systems Analyst
XIAN ELECTRIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED U-1901 19/F Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Xiao Li Chinese	Assistant General Manager
XIAN ELECTRIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED U-1901 19/F Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Wei Liu Chinese	Finance Manager
JAIMAALAKSHMI LENDING & TRADING CORP. U-112-3A Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St., Pasay City	Iqbal Singh Sidhu Indian	Sales Consultant
JAIMAALAKSHMI LENDING & TRADING CORP. U-112-3A Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St., Pasay City	Sandip Singh Indian	Operation Manager
JAIMAALAKSHMI LENDING & TRADING CORP. U-112-3A Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St., Pasay City	Gurpreet Kaur Indian	Technical Supervisor
JAIMAALAKSHMI LENDING & TRADING CORP. U-112-3A Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St., Pasay City	Râmandeep Kaur Malhi Indian	Marketing Manager
RADOVIL TRADING LTD. CO. 1775 La Torre St., Binondo, Manila	Meihong Wang Chinese	Secretary
RADOVIL TRADING LTD. CO. 1775 La Torre St., Binondo, Manila	Rongjie Cai Chinese	Consultant
KOK MING TRDG. LTD. CO. U707 550 Juan Luna Street, Binondo, Manila	Or Chit Hung Chinese	Manager
CITIBANK, N.A. 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Valentin Pierre Wee American	Chief Operating Officer for the Citigroup Business Process Solutions
XIAN ELECTRIC ENGINEERING COMPANY LIMITED Unit 1901,19/F Raffles Corporate Center, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Yinghai Ma Chinese	General Manager/ Project Manager
HENKEL ASIA PACIFIC SERVICE CENTRE 29th LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Dae Woo Kim Korean	Accounting Specialist
TOPMART IMPORT & EXPORT LTD. CO. 1089 Aguilar St., cor. C.M. Recto, Quiapo, Manila	Tiankuo Li Chinese	Consultant
PHILSUN INTERNATIONAL IMPORT & EXPORT LTD. CO. 2020 Bambang St., Binondo, Manila	Rongqi Fan Chinese	Consultant
COOL LYNX TRADING LTD. CO. 243 Tomas Mapua St., Binondo, Manila	Zongxiang Hou Chinese	Assistant Manager
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Jungok Um Korean	Korean Client Support
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Hyun Ju Lee Korean	Korean Client Support
YBM PNT INC. 28/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City Cyberpark, Libis, Quezon City	Mina Lee Korean	Manager
SITEL PHILIPPINES CORPORATION 21/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	David Roger Dupuis Canadian	Director, Account Operations
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANTS INTL. CORP. Suite 35 A&B Rufino Pacific Tower, 6784 Ayala Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City	Sathappan Sathappan Indian	Process Consultant
EASTWEST CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT INC. U308 3F Seneca Plaza, 1152 E. Rodriguez Sr., Ave. Brgy. Mariana, Quezon City	Ki Duk Jang Korean	President
HEXAFOUR PHILIPPINES INC. Unit 402 Insurance National Life Bldg. Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Tomikazu Hasegawa Japanese	Engineering Manager
SHARP (PHILS.) CORPORATION Km. 23 West Service Road, South Super Highway Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Kazuo Tsuji Japanese	Senior Vice President and Group General Manager
JAIMAALAKSHMI LENDING & TRADING CORP. U-112-3A Balagtas Villas, Balagtas St., Pasay City	Pawan Kumar Indian	Marketing Manager for Accounts

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI - Nov. 20, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

The University of the Philippines System, Diliman, Quezon City, through its UP System Bids and Awards Committee (UPS BAC) invites all interested **SUPPLIERS/BIDDERS** to bid for the following:

Name of Project	Approved Budget for the Contract
One (1) Unit Optical Domain Reflectometer for Multimode (850nm, 1300nm) and Singlemode Fiber (1310nm, 1550nm) One (1) Set – Optical Loss Test Kit One (1) Unit Multimode Light Source (850nm, 1300nm) One (1) Unit Singlemode Light (1310nm, 1550nm) One (1) Unit Power Meter One (1) Set Optic Maintenance Kit One (1) Set Fiber Cleaning Kit One (1) Set Fiber Termination Kit One (1) Set Fiber Mechanical Splice Kit One (1) Lot Fiber Connector (Singlemode) and Multimode ST, SC, MT-RJ) and labels One (1) Unit Visual Fault Locator One (1) Unit Fiber Inspection Microscope (200X and 400X magnification)	Php 2,105,500.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with **single contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding.** The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The Complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
Issuance of Bid Documents	Start on November 29, 2007 (Thursday), 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Pre Bid Conference	9:00 AM, November 26, 2007 (Monday)
Submission of Bids	On or before December 7, 2007 (Friday), 5:00 PM
Opening of Bids	December 10, 2007, (Monday) 9:00 AM

Sealed proposals should be submitted to the **UP Systems Supply and Property Management Office, Quezon Hall (Oblation Plaza), UP Diliman, Quezon City.**

Bid documents will be available from the UP System SPMO to bidders upon payment of **non-refundable amount of Php 2,200.00 for bid documents and Php 500.00 for membership (first time bidders).** Contact person : **Mr. Isagani L. Bagus, Officer-In-Charge, UP System SPMO, Telefax: 926-4919.**

The University of the Philippines System reserves the right to reject any or all bids as well as waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) Professor **ARIEL S. BETAN**
Assistant Vice President for Administration and
Chair, UP System Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 20, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites interested parties to a public bidding for the supply of PC Workstations, Notebooks and accessories with the following specifications and number of units, to wit:

208 Units Branded PC Workstations.

Operating System : Genuine Windows Vista Business
Processor : Intel Core 2 Duo 2.33 Ghz 4MB shared, L2 cache 1333 MHz FSB
Chipset : Intel X38 Express
Form Factor : Convertible Minitower
Memory : 2 GB 800 MHz DDR2 SDRAM
Internal Storage : 160 GB 7200 rpm SATA 3.0-Gb/s NCQ
Optical Drives : 16X DVD+/-RW SuperMulti SATA
Slots : 3 PCI, 1 PCIe x8 (x4 electrical), 2 PCIe x16
Ports : Standard
Graphics Cards : NVIDIA Quadro FX570 (256 MB)
Monitor : 17" LCD Monitor
Input Device : USB optical scroll mouse
Keyboard : PS/2 standard keyboard
Network : 10/100/1000
Dimensions : 6.6"W x 17.9"D x 17.7"H
Power Supply : 475 watts wide-ranging, active Power Factor Correction, 80 PLUS Efficient
Warranty : 3 yrs in parts, 3 yrs labor, & 3yrs onsite service
Software : MS Office 2007 Basic Edition (license)

21 Units Branded PC Workstations

All specifications same as above except:
Internal Storage : 250 GB 7200 rpm SATA 3.0-Gb/s NCQ

75 Units Branded PC Notebooks

Operating System : Genuine Windows Vista Business
Technology : Intel Centrino Duo Processor
Processor : Intel Core 2 Duo (1.20 GHz, 533 MHz)
Network : Intel PRO/Wireless 3945ABG, RJ-45 Con.
Chipset : Mobile Intel 945GMS Express
Main Memory : 1GB, 667MHz (upgradeable to 2GB)
Hard Drive : 100GB Ultra ATA/100, 4200rpm
Optical Drive : DVD+-RW/+-R DL/RAM Drive Reading (8x/6x/8x), Writing (8x/4x/8x)
Graphics : Intel Graphics Media Accelerator 950, 256MB
Display Type : 11.1" (1366x768)TFT, LCD Colour display
Interface : Standard
Web Camera : 640x480, 1/7.4"VGA CMOS, F2.8 Lens
Audio : Intel HD Audio compatible, Direct 3D support
Input Device : External mini USB optical scroll mouse
Battery : VGP-BPX11 Lithium-ion up to 16.5 hrs of use
Software : MS Office 2007 Basic Edition (licensed)
Warranty : 1 yr in parts, 1 yr labor, & 1yr onsite service

229 Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)

Output Power : 400 Watts / 650 VA, 230V
Input Voltage : 230V 50/60 Hz
Input Conn : IEC-320 C14
Battery Type : Maintenance-free sealed Lead-Acid (1) with suspended electrolyte, leakproof
Charge Time : 8 hours
Backup Time : 2.4 minutes at Full Load (400 Watts) 11.4 minutes at Half Load (200 Watts)
Interface Ports : DB-9 RS-232, USB
Control Panel : LED status display with On Line, Replace Battery & Overload indicators
Audible Alarm : Alarm when On battey, Distinctive low battery alarm & Overload continuous tone
Surge Rating : 320 Joules
Dimensions : 91mm W x 284mm D x 165mm H
Net Weight : 6.03 Kg
Warranty : 2 years repair or replace

to be held on December 11, 2007 at exactly 1:30 p.m., Board Room, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Bid documents and instructions to bidders may be secured from the General Services Division, HLURB, G/F HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman, St., Diliman, Quezon City, any time during office hours upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php 1,500.00, starting November 22, 2007.

Request for clarification and other inquiries may be addressed to the said office in writing or in person before the bidding date or through Information Technology Group (ITG) telephone nos. 927-3059 or 927-2698.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities in the bids received and to accept such bids which are considered advantageous to the government.

ATTY. WILFREDO I. IMPERIAL
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – November 20, 2007)

‘Learning beyond 4 walls’ launched

DepEd hopes to provide grads with 21st-century cyber skills

By Jerry E. Esplanada

STRESSING THE NEED FOR “ALTERnative learning systems beyond the four walls of the classroom,” Secretary Jesli A. Lapus yesterday launched the Department of Education’s five-point information communications technology (ICT) agenda.

Speaking during Microsoft Corp.’s Education Summit at the Hotel Sofitel-Philippine Plaza, Lapus said the DepEd’s ICT agenda focuses on the following areas:

- Learning goals and instructional design, which “define the agency’s goal of producing graduates who have acquired 21st century skills and who can pass internationally benchmarked achievement exams, and at the same time underscores the need to systematically develop appropriate instructional materials and activities;”
- e-Services definition and usability standards, which “underscore the importance of defining the Internet-based services most suited for our particular education requirements;”
- Learning infrastructure and digital solutions, which “stress the need to define the infrastructure and digital solutions suited for our education requirements;”
- Open content and multimedia learning resources, which “look into the potential of social media content, as well as provide solutions to the pitfalls of such user-generated resources;”
- ICT competency standards and capability building, which “highlight both the need for creating competency standards for ICT in education and the need to empower teachers and administrators through effective ICT training.”

The DepEd has been conducting ICT training for teachers with the help of its private sector partners like Microsoft, according to Lapus.

Lapus said, “It is not enough to simply provide computers with Internet connections in the classroom and hope that somehow learning will occur.”

“We need a comprehensive response to the challenges and opportunities given to us by these new technologies. We need an encompassing strategy that is backed by sound policy,” he said.

Lapus again made a pitch for satellite-based distance education, referring to the ambitious P26.4-billion Cyber Education Project (CEP) that was put on hold because of ongoing legislative inquiries into alleged corruption in the National Broadband Network project. Both the CEP and the NBN were to be funded with loans from China.

“We have been pushing for the use of satellite-based distance education so that we can provide high quality educational materials to the millions of underserved school children living in the far-flung areas of our archipelago,” he said.

Lapus has repeatedly endorsed the CEP, which he describes as an “ideal project” and the “best thing to happen to Philippine education.”

President Macapagal-Arroyo has directed the DepEd and three other government panels—Presidential Task Force on Education, Government Procurement Policy Board and the China Projects Oversight Panel—to review the CEP.

Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, president of Ateneo de Manila University, heads the education task force, which includes Lapus, higher education acting chair Romulo Neri and Technical Education and Skills Development head Augusto Syjuco. Four representatives from the private sector are also included: Angeles University Foundation president Emmanuel Angeles, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dy, Asian Institute of Management professor Victor Limlingan and former University of the Philippines president Jose Abueva.

The China Projects Oversight Panel, headed by Trade Secretary Peter Favila, has been tasked to “protect” the CEP from “unnecessary controversy.”

Study shows more Pinays smoke than other Asians

By Julie M. Aurelio

SINGAPORE—IN 15 YEARS, WOMEN smokers in the Asia-Pacific region will outpuff women smokers in Latin America and Europe, according to health experts here.

The Philippines posted the highest rate (18 percent) of female smokers among young adults and adults, compared to Thailand’s 2.4 percent and other Asian countries.

According to Dr. Antonio Anzueto of the University of Texas Health Center, this trend will most likely reflect a similar increase in smoking-related respiratory and lung diseases in Asia.

“Due to trends in smoking and environmental pollution, the prevalence of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and chronic bronchitis is very likely to increase in the Asia-Pacific,” said Anzueto during a conference in Singapore last week.

Anzueto and respiratory experts discussed the impact and treatment of COPD, acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis (AECB) and other diseases caused by smoking at a conference sponsored by Bayer Schering Pharma.

Asian epidemic

Because of increased public awareness of respiratory diseases, Europeans are now smoking less and consulting their doctors more, while Asians are smoking more, according to Anzueto.

Latin America posted the highest percentage of female smokers at 48.8 percent, followed by Europe at 43.6 percent and Asia Pacific at 34 percent.

While smoking is the main risk factor—but not the only one—incidences of COPD and AECB are not limited to current smokers as they also affect past smokers and those exposed to pollution and secondhand smoke.

“This used to be a problem only in developed countries, but we now see that we are awakening to an ‘epidemic’ in Asia,” Anzueto said.

Importance of antibiotics

COPD is defined as a group of lung diseases caused by air flow obstruction such as chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

AECB are periodic “flare-ups” of excessive mucus production, accompanied by coughing and breathlessness, which occur at least thrice a year.

“Without treatment with antibiotics, the symptoms get worse. The cough gets worse, the phlegm gets worse with each flare-up, and patients lose sleep and working days,” Anzueto said.

In a worldwide study conducted among 55,274 patients and 8,471 doctors, Europe posted a high of 55.9 percent prevalence of chronic bronchitis, while Asia ranked lowest at 32.2 percent.

Out of the 27,990 patients in Asia, 8,619 were from the Philippines while China contributed 12,118 participants.

Bigger medical mission off to Bangladesh

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WILL send a team of 15 health workers, not 10 as earlier reported, to Bangladesh this week to provide medical assistance to the victims of Cyclone Sidr.

Health Undersecretary Jade del Mundo told reporters yesterday that a team consisting of six doctors, four nurses, a psychiatrist, psychologist, sanitary engineer, epidemiologist and medical technician, is set to leave tomorrow for Bangladesh.

The decision was reached following a meeting with the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Office of Civil Defense and the National Disaster Coordinating Committee, he added.

Del Mundo said the Philippine medical mission will bring with it some $10,000 worth of medicines and materials for emergency surgical operations.

The Bangladesh Embassy, he said, has yet to officially communicate their actual needs on the ground.

“For the meantime, we are still firming up what Bangladesh actually needs from us,” said Del Mundo.

The medical team will be headed by Dr. Arnel Rivera of the DOH Emergency Medical Service and formerly with the Tondo General Hospital. The rest of the medical mission team members, said Del Mundo, will include health professionals previously sent by the DOH to medical missions in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

The last time the Philippines sent a medical team abroad was in Indonesia in 2006, after an earthquake left more than 4,000 people dead.

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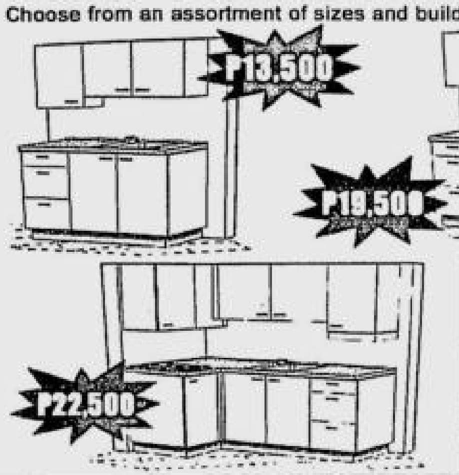

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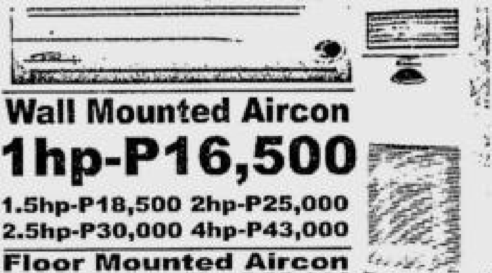

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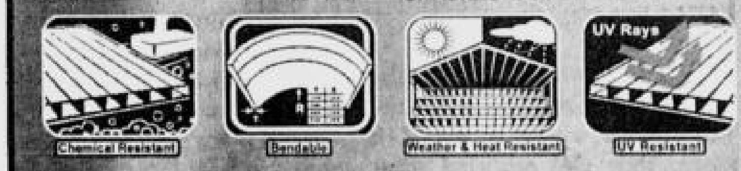

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07-11-06	House & Lot L/A 143 sqm F/A 138 sqm	B7, L3, North Matrixville Subd., Camarin, Caloocan City	P861,124.00
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Asean Charter OK hinges on Suu Kyi release

From page A1

Before the dinner, Ms Arroyo met for 30 minutes with Burma's Prime Minister Thein Sein, and spelled out her position, asking him to accelerate the process for the return of democracy to Burma.

Thein Sein tried to ask for understanding, saying it would be a long process, Bunye said.

Philippine officials said failure by one country in Asean to ratify the charter would mean the regional constitution would not take effect.

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab said a free trade deal between Washington and Asean was unlikely because of "the political situation in the region" and that Asean's reputation and credibility were at stake because of Burma's junta and its refusal to allow a transition to democracy.

Schwab met with Asean officials and said she had expressed concern on the "special responsibility" of Asean, the only international group to have Burma as a member.

"The credibility and reputation of Asean have been called into question because of the situation in Myanmar. Business as usual can't be business as usual," Schwab told reporters.

The United States expanded its sanctions against Burma's rulers in October, adding 11 more military leaders to a list facing sanctions and tightened US export controls.

Burma yesterday gave its full backing to the Asean Charter that will create an agency to review human rights in the region after drafters took out references to punishing violators.

The charter—which took two and a half years to seal—will be signed by Asean leaders at their annual summit on today.

Burma, one of Asean's 10 members, was pleased with the charter despite calls for a human rights arm that would focus on abuses by its junta, Burma's senior diplomat U Aung Bwa told The Associated Press.

"We have a very good charter. I think everybody should be happy. It's quite balanced," U Aung Bwa said, adding he didn't believe Burma's internal problems should be the subject of intense scrutiny at the four-day summit.

A legal entity

The long-overdue charter is aimed at formally turning the 40-year-old organization—often derided as a powerless talk shop—into a rules-based legal entity.

That means Asean can sue and be sued, and will be held accountable for all the treaties and agreements it signs.

The charter still needs to be ratified by the parliaments of the member countries, a process that will take a year.

The US Senate voted unanimously on Friday to urge Asean to suspend Burma until the regime showed respect for human rights.

But Asean has unanimously rejected calls for a suspension, saying there was a better chance that Burma would take the road to democracy if it stayed within the group. Asean has criticized the sanctions, saying they would only hurt Burma's civilians.

"It's been tried in Iraq and nobody wants to have an Iraq in Southeast Asia," Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was quoted as saying, echoing China, Burma's closest ally.

Economic fallout

Schwab indicated that Asean's stance of noninterference in its members' internal politics could have economic consequences for its trade with the United States, its fifth largest trading partner.

"It's impossible to imagine a free trade agreement with Asean in the near term given the political situation," she said. Asked if this meant Burma, she said: "For example."

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO walks hand in hand with daughter Luli during a break in the 13th Asean Summit in Singapore. AP

Diplomats say the Asean Charter means that the current option of excluding Burma from deals will end.

Free trade talks between Asean and the European Union could also stall.

Together, the United States and the European Union account for 27 percent of Asean's exports and a third of its inward direct investment.

"There's $168 billion of trade that we're trying to address here," said Schwab. "There's no way I could come here without expressing our concern."

In October, the European Union also strengthened sanctions against Burma, including asset freezes on generals, an export ban on equipment, plus import and investment bans.

Bilateral meetings

The Asean summit is the first major forum where all the major players in the Burma story have come face to face since the junta's bloody crackdown on democracy protesters in September.

So far the summit seems to have sharpened tensions rather than reduced them.

Japan, one of the strongest US allies in Asia, said it was neither for or against the sanctions.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda is to meet Burma's Prime Minister Thein Sein on Wednesday, and is set to demand an explanation for the killing of a Japanese photographer by Burmese soldiers in September, the official said.

Toothless body

One of the most significant pledges in the charter is to set up a regional human rights body. Critics note the body will have limited impact, given that it will not be able to punish governments that violate human rights of their citizens.

"I'm not sure if it will have teeth but it will certainly have a tongue," Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo said, referring to the agency's right to admonish and criticize violators.

"It will certainly have moral influence if nothing else. But these are details for the future."

Asean officials watered down the charter by dropping earlier recommendations to consider sanctions, including possible expulsion, in cases of serious breaches by member nations.

A copy of the charter seen by The Associated Press states that any such breaches would be referred to Asean heads of state "for decision."

The Burmese junta's actions in crushing prodemocracy demonstrators have greatly embarrassed Asean, which is under pressure from the West and its own people to force change in the isolated Southeast Asian nation.

Small protest

A glimmer of hope for democracy in Burma has been raised by the recent efforts of United Nations envoy Ibrahim Gambari, who met with junta leader Sen. Gen. Than Shwe and opposition leader Suu Kyi after the September crackdown.

The junta has indicated it will restart the process of national reconciliation.

The Asean leaders will also meet with leaders of China, Japan, India, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand for a second summit on Wednesday.

Nine international students from a local university staged a small protest against Burma's junta near the summit venue.

Dressed in red T-shirts that read, "We pursue peace, justice and democracy for Burma," the students each carried a candle as they walked down a main street in groups of three. *Reports from Reuters and AP*

Top ZTE protagonists 'not believable'—survey

From page A1

respondents were aware of the $329-million deal between the Philippines and China's ZTE Corp. that was scuttled after the namesake son of Speaker Jose de Venecia claimed the contract to digitally wire the nation's bureaucracy was overpriced.

The survey said 70 percent of Filipinos, or seven in every 10, were aware of the bribery allegations surrounding the deal that forced the resignation of Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos.

Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, said the Senate would issue an arrest order if former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri does not show up at its hearing today.

Neri, now chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), earlier told the panel that he was offered a P200-million bribe by Abalos. He testified that he informed President Macapagal-Arroyo of the bribe offer, but refused to answer follow-up questions, claiming executive privilege.

CHEd sources said that Neri was to attend a meeting in Malaysia and would not be present at today's hearing.

The Pulse Asia survey was conducted on Oct. 20-31, using face-to-face interviews with a multistage probability sample of 1,200 representative adults. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Credibility

The survey found that even after Abalos' resignation and the President's cancellation of the ZTE deal, 75 percent of those polled believed that the "best thing" for the Senate to do was to continue its investigation.

"Big to overwhelming majorities (57-94 percent) across geographic areas and socioeconomic groups are aware of these issues, with awareness levels being highest in Metro Manila (93 percent) and in the Class ABC (93 percent)," Pulse Asia said in a statement.

The survey also found that "near to big majorities" (48 to 73 percent) across all areas and socioeconomic classes believed that Abalos, Neri and Amsterdam Holdings cofounder Jose "Joey" de Venecia III were all equally not credible—a sentiment most pronounced in the Visayas (70 percent) and Mindanao (73 percent).

One in every five (22 percent) believed that Joey de Venecia was more credible than Abalos and Neri—an opinion most pronounced in Metro Manila (31 percent) and among members of classes ABC (32 percent.)

Probe should continue

Around one in every 10 (12 percent) believed Abalos was the most credible of the three. Only 8 percent held Neri as most believable.

The opinion that the Senate should continue its investigation into the ZTE deal, on the other hand, was shared by "considerable to big majorities" across geographic areas and socioeconomic groups—from 68 percent in Mindanao to 81 percent in Metro Manila.

The view that it would be better for the Senate to stop its investigation was most supported by those in Mindanao (32 percent).

Palace suggestion

The Ulat ng Bayan surveys are undertaken by Pulse Asia on its own without any party singularly commissioning the research effort.

On Sunday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita urged the Senate to wrap up its hearing. He wondered though why the Senate was still continuing with its inquiry when the NBN contract had been canceled and Abalos had resigned.

"So as a layman, what do I say? What is the object of the hearing?" Ermita said, making it clear he was "not faulting the Senate for doing what they want to do."

"We wish that we can go on with the business of governance because many things are happening that are needed by the Filipino people," he added. *With reports from Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research, and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jerry E. Esplanada and Christine O. Avendaño.*

Gonzalez back at DOJ after going to 'hell'

From page A1

and well-being.

He underwent a kidney transplant at the National Kidney Transplant Institute (NKTI) in September with his driver Felicito Gunay as the donor.

"My friends, I went to hell and back," Gonzalez said, citing the title of Audie Murphy's memoir "To Hell and Back."

Murphy is America's most decorated combat hero of World War II who later became a successful Hollywood actor.

"You cannot imagine the pain I underwent during my operation," said the justice secretary in his speech following the flag ceremony.

Survivor

But thanks to the prayers of his friends, supporters and family, especially his wife, Pacita, Gonzalez has recovered.

His wife accompanied Gonzales to the DOJ yesterday.

"I was able to survive a very serious medical problem. As Undersecretary [Fidel] Exconde said and he quotes Gen. [Douglas] MacArthur: I have returned," the justice secretary said.

A kidney transplant involves the implantation of a healthy kidney into a patient suffering from kidney failure.

According to the US National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health, over 90 percent of kidney recipients survive for at least a year after the operation. After a decade, about half of the transplanted kidneys remain functional.

Assistance not required

Gonzalez happily took note of the balloons and streamers hanging above his office door and in the basketball court with messages such as "DOJ loves Secretary Raul M. Gonzalez" and "Welcome Back to DOJ."

At first, he thought there was a "tiangge" or a sale at the DOJ. His second thought was it was too early to be celebrating his birthday. He said the streamers made him feel welcome.

"Whether or not the messages on the streamers come from the depths of your hearts, I don't know, but thank you and good day," he told DOJ employees.

The 76-year-old Gonzalez appeared much stronger compared to the weeks before his surgery, when he required assistance to get around.

Special precautions

Yesterday, he walked by himself from his office to the parking lot at the back of the DOJ where the flag ceremony was held.

HE'S BAACK! Controversial Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez gets a warm welcome from his staff at the Department of Justice on Monday. REM ZAMORA

Being susceptible to infections, Gonzalez has taken special precautions with his new kidney.

People have to squirt sanitizer on their hands before entering his office. Wooden dividers enclose the area around his desk, leaving an opening wide enough for one or two people.

Journalists have been requested to interview the justice secretary from a distance of two to three feet away.

Gunay, Gonzalez's kidney donor, continues to work for him.

He drove the justice secretary to the office that day and said he felt fine. His subsequent checkups showed there was nothing wrong with him, despite having one less kidney.

Gunay said he was told to cut back on meat and alcohol and to refrain from strenuous exercise like jogging.

Continue policies

Meanwhile, Gonzalez said he would continue the policies he implemented when he took over the DOJ three years ago.

According to him, the Constitution guarantees equal justice for everyone but not everyone has equal opportunity for justice.

Citing the right to bail as an example, he said the rich can afford to pay bail and gain temporary liberty but the poor cannot readily do so.

Gonzalez said it was his duty to make sure people had equal opportunities for justice and to see to it that the social justice system, not just the criminal justice system, was working.

Let's work together

The country is in a crisis because of political conflict, according to Gonzalez.

He asked the DOJ employees to work together so that the nation might progress.

Gonzalez said he would address concerns of the department but stressed that complaints must be supported by evidence.

He also announced that the justice undersecretaries appointed during his absence would keep their posts since it was the President who appointed them.

Lacson is impressed

Sen. Panfilo Lacson was so impressed by Gonzalez's zeal to return to work, the opposition senator said he was seriously considering endorsing Gonzalez's confirmation.

In an interview with reporters, Lacson, who had vigorously blocked Gonzalez's confirmation in the last Congress, said he had softened his stand, not out of pity but out of respect for Gonzalez who is raring to go back to work after a debilitating ailment.

"I'm inclined to recommend his confirmation to remove the sword of Damocles that has been hanging over his head," said Lacson. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan*

Kids learn all about respect at Inquirer Read-Along

By Kate V. Pedroso
Inquirer Research

AN AUDIENCE OF OVER 40 CHILDREN, AMONG them four children of celebrities, learned about respect for elders, the value of siblings and the origin of the *ampalaya* in the Inquirer Read-Along session held at National Book Store at the Power Plant Mall in Makati City on Saturday.

Lorin and Venice Bektas, daughters of actress Ruffa Gutierrez, came to the session with Jaye Bautista, Gutierrez's executive assistant. Benjamin and Ella Pangilinan also came with their mother, returning celebrity reader Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan.

Aside from Pangilinan, another guest reader, Lyn Danao of Adarna Publishing, read stories to the children during the 16th Inquirer Read-Along, the third time the session was held outside the INQUIRER offices on Chino Roces Avenue in Makati.

Danao, a Mass Communications graduate of Centro Escolar University, kicked off the program with the story, "Tiktaktok at Pikpakbum," about a pair of brother dogs that had opposite attitudes—one was kind and responsible, while the other was ill-tempered and mischievous.

Good values

"As a storyteller, I believe you can influence young minds, impart good values," said Danao, an Adarna storyteller since 2004.

She also read "Ang Alamat ng Ampalaya" by Augie Rivera, a story about the *ampalaya*, which was characterized as a greedy and envious vegetable that earned the ire of fairies.

Danao encouraged the participation of the audience in both stories. At one point, four-year-old Lorin Bektas went up front to count out numbers in Turkish, while her sister Venice, 3, participated in the dramatization of some scenes from the first story.

"They [Lorin and Venice] have attended other [storytelling sessions]," said Bautista, who usually accompanies the Bektas sisters outside their home. "But the way [the stories were] presented today made them really interested. This was the first time they actually interacted," she said, adding that Lorin already knew how to read.

On the other hand, Pangilinan read "Super Benj," for which she was recently cited by the Catholic Mass Media Awards.

Power of prayer

The story, which Pangilinan herself wrote, emphasizes trust in God, the importance of family and the power of prayer.

Pangilinan, who launched "Super Benj" late last year in time for Benj's fifth birthday, was a celebrity guest storyteller for the Inquirer Read-Along in August. "Super Benj" is based on the experience of six-year-old Benj, who underwent heart surgery two years ago for a congenital heart condition.

"Initially, Super Benj was listed under the Children's Magazine category, so I was almost sure we wouldn't win," she said. "But then, they gave us a special citation. It was as good as providing a category for the book."

Pangilinan also read "Bruhahaha, Bruhihihi" by Ma. Corazon Remigio, about a misunderstood old woman and a child who had the heart to see through the cloud of superstition and rumors surrounding the woman called "bruha" by others.

At the end of the session, the children and their parents were more than happy with how the event turned out.

"It is a good interactive tool to encourage children to not only read, but to be attentive and to mingle with others," said Bautista.

Josefina Banan, who came with her seven-year-old granddaughter Isabel Angelique, said last week's Inquirer Read-Along session with Sonia Roco caught her attention, adding that their first Inquirer Read-Along session was "very interesting."

"We are definitely attending more sessions in the future," Banan said.

The activity was held in cooperation with National Book Store Foundation, Adarna Publishing House and Soroptomist International of Eastwood.

The next Inquirer Read-Along session is set for Nov. 24 and will feature model-actress Donita Rose as the guest reader.

(Interested parties may call Ellen Caparros or Girlie Refran at tel. 897-8808, local 329. Those interested in donating books to the program may send an e-mail to inquirer-readalong@inquirer.com.ph.)

Maricel Laxa gives an entertaining read of the book she wrote, "Super Benj." RODEL ROTONI

Asean traders to get expert help for crafts

EXPERTS HELPING THE HANDICRAFT INdustry in Asean countries to better compete in the global market will meet in an international forum dubbed "Business Opportunities 2008" to be held at the SMX Convention Center on Nov. 22-24.

The experts are from the Philippines, Brunei, Canada, Greece, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Nigeria, South Africa, Thailand and the United States.

Biz Ops '08 will be held in conjunction with the International Arts and Crafts Expo, a project of the Department of Tourism, Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Foreign Affairs with the Asean Handicrafts Promotion and Development Association (AHPADA).

Dr. Mina T. Gabor, former tourism secretary and co-chair of the national host committee for the expo, said speakers will include Maldives Tourism Minister Mahamood Shougee, Manitoba (Canada) Culture and Tourism Minister Eric Robinson, Philippine Tourism Authority General Manager Robert Dean Barbers, Trade Undersecretary Carissa Cruz-Evangelista and Foreign Secretary Franklin Ebdalin.

The meetings will cover product development and the marketing of arts and crafts, an artists' exchange, success stories and best practices in arts and crafts in Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) countries.

The forum will include a presentation of the CraftsNet Project and the formation of a Euro-Asia CraftsNetwork.

The results of workshops on product design, marketing trends, global cooperation on arts and crafts, and a proposed code of ethics will be presented. A Manila Declaration on Arts and Crafts will be turned over to the DFA.

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Hands off

EDITORIAL

WHEN POLICE INVESTIGATORS ANNOUNCED last week that they had solved the Batasan bombing which killed Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar and three others, they took pains to clarify that they were not ready to name anyone as the mastermind yet. They had arrested three suspects, including a brother-in-law and a former driver of former Deputy Speaker Gerry Salapuddin. They had confiscated a license plate once used by the former congressman, whom Akbar's first wife defeated in the gubernatorial race last May. And they had an admission from the suspects that Wahab was the target. But the investigators stressed that they had nothing conclusive to link Salapuddin to the assassination. "At this point, Congressman Salapuddin is not a suspect," PNP Director General Avelino Razon said. "Unless we can get evidence or testimony to his complicity in this case, then we can say that he is a suspect."

Given what must have been a strong temptation to seize upon a sensational solution to a sensational crime, such tact and circumspection on the part of police investigators can be quite remarkable. Regrettably, however, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita took a different tack by virtually clearing Salapuddin. "I don't think he would do that," he told reporters Sunday. While Salapuddin is a former commander of the Moro National Liberation Front, Ermita said, he has become "a success story in the government's rebel returnee program" and "a very honorable man." It was Ermita who facilitated Salapuddin's surrender in 1984.

In vouching for Salapuddin's innocence so very publicly, Ermita probably thought he was helping a friend. It is doubtful that he succeeded; in fact, what he did was unfair to the former congressman. Ermita is not part of the police investigating team, so his absolution has not prompted people to nod in agreement, but it has only raised eyebrows. And what he knows about Salapuddin or how he regards the man is irrelevant. "Honorable" is how lawmakers and other officials in government want themselves to be addressed, but there are not very many in Congress who deserve to be called so. There is nothing in the law or the public experience that suggests that Ermita's testimonial should put anyone above suspicion.

Only the police, after a thorough and impartial investigation, can clear Salapuddin to everyone's satisfaction. But by his meddling, Ermita has made that outcome more difficult to achieve. His rush to exonerate Salapuddin has tainted with political color what once seemed to be a sound and professional job being done by investigators. What looked like an admirable exercise of discretion has been made to look like the product of mindless direction from the Palace.

It is bad enough that some groups are trying to introduce race and religion into the equation, curiously demanding an "interfaith" investigation of the bombing. But Ermita has made things worse by poking his nose into a matter that should be left for the police and the National Bureau of Investigation to handle. Such unwarranted meddling only adds fuel to the suspicion that even our investigating bodies are being manipulated to serve, not the ends of justice, but the whims and caprices of those who are in power. Public officials, especially those occupying the most powerful positions, should learn when to leave things alone.

Crackdown on vice

FOREIGN COMMENT

APPARENTLY THE IRANIAN PEOPLE WERE STARTING TO enjoy themselves a little too much to suit the ruling clerics. Supreme leader Ali Khamenei has ordered a police crackdown on "social vices." So the police have been seizing satellite dishes and raiding private parties in search of alcohol, unapproved videos and CDs and other trappings of Western decadence.

The repressive hand of the ayatollahs has fallen especially hard on Iranian women who are enjoined from wearing "inappropriate" makeup and clothes that show any part of the hair or the leg. Bright colors are out, too. You don't have to be a sociologist to see that this crackdown on vice, which elsewhere would be seen as the innocent music, fashion and films of the young, is not going to work and may even end badly.

A very young nation, Iran has, according to the International Monetary Fund, the world's highest brain drain. The best and brightest of Iran's young people seem to want only one thing—out.

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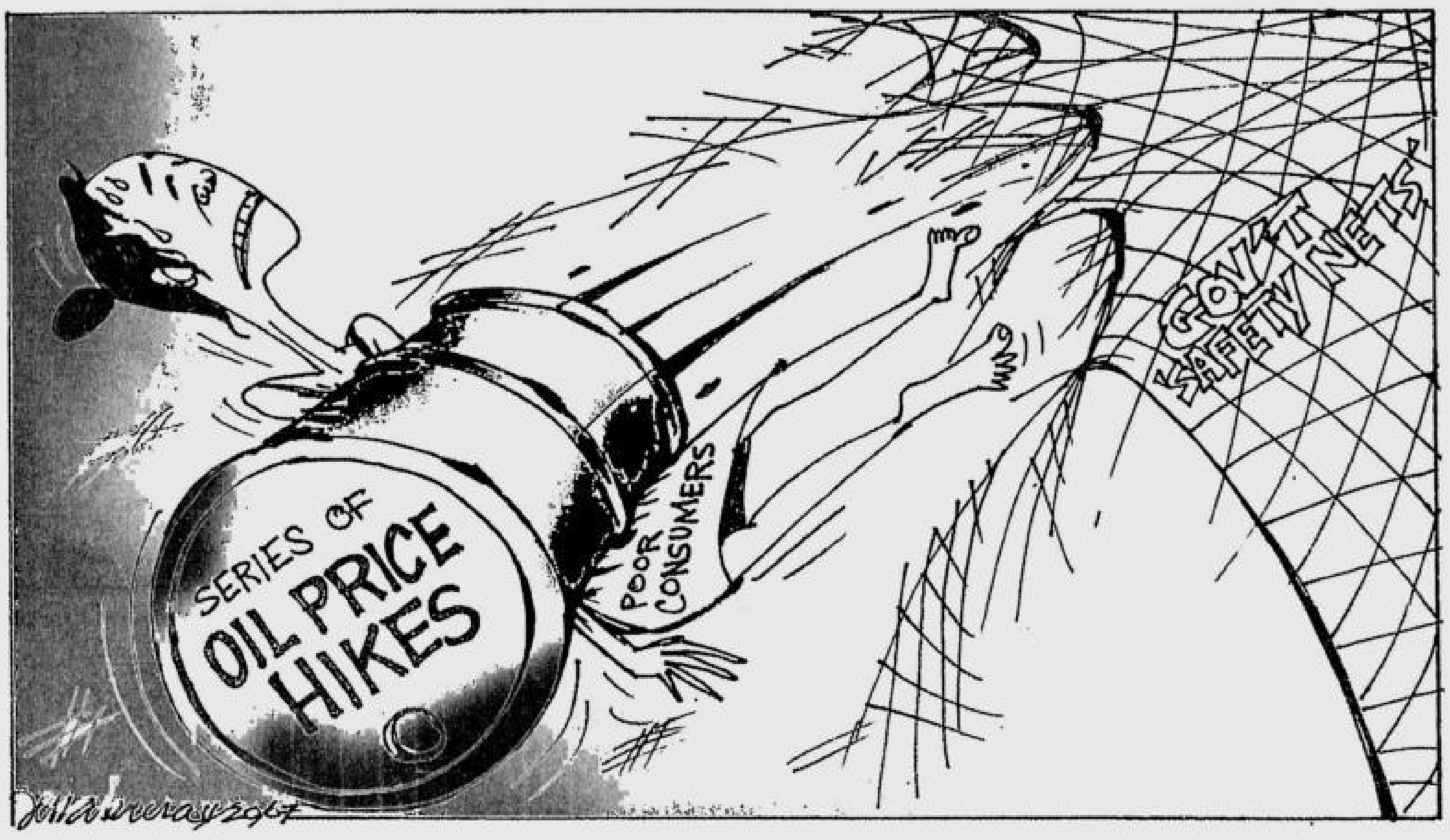

Chewing one's words

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"MAN DOES NOT LIVE BY WORDS ALONE, although sometimes he must eat them," Adlai Stevenson said in the heat of his US presidential election bid. So, is former President Joseph Estrada swallowing his words as the brawl over the court seizure of loot intensifies?

Reread Erap, suggests "My National Disaster: It's called the Republic of the Philippines." This insightful New York blog is written by former PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza. It quotes Estrada to Estrada.

"'*Hindi nilalambing ang krimen. Dinudurog. Hindi kinukupkup ang kriminal. Pinaparusahan.*' Estrada perorated in his 1999 State of the Nation address. 'Crime should not be treated gently. It should be crushed. Criminals should not be coddled. They must be punished.'"

Hindsight is always 20/20. Issuing decrees, as a lawgiver, is a different kettle of fish from abiding by that guideline, even as a pardoned lawbreaker. So, Erap whines for kid glove treatment as the court ordered Sheriff Edgardo Urieta: Shear other properties to make up for shortfalls, if there's welshing on restitution.

Foul, Estrada protested. His lawyers scrambled to quash the writs, arguing that the seizures would exceed the court decision. A convicted plunderer doesn't owe the state the monetary value of what he swiped. Therefore, Erap can't be compelled to cough up pre-ransacking assets like the Tanay and Polk Street mansions, a fleet of cars and other assets. *Nilalambing ang krimen? Kinukupkup ang kriminal*?

The court will hear Erap out this week. He scoffed, meanwhile, at Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio's proposal to grab back the pardon papers if forfeiture is derailed. "What was granted to me was unconditional clemency."

Equitable-PCI Bank (now spliced with Banco de Oro), meanwhile, heeded a court order. It yielded P215 million refrigerated from the program-less Erap Muslim Youth Foundation. Equitable still smarts from criticism of its coddling of Estrada while he was in power.

The amount seized, so far, is peanuts. It's a fraction "of the P545.29 million that the court said was creamed off from "illegal gambling payoffs and ... ordered forfeited in favor of government." Is there anything left of the P189 million stashed in the Jose Velarde account, after the panicked withdrawals? And the "Boracay Mansion" has been cannibalized.

These minuscule seizures are highly publicized. They come in a country where the main under-the-table industry, by a moneybag aristocracy, is hauling cash to the grave. Its members claw to keep what they've pillaged.

Thus, the Marcoses try to wrest loot stashed with Lucio Tan and other cronies, and which Bongbong and Imee now claim. Cronies camouflage every centavo, mansion and *hacienda*. "Count" Herminio Disini wallows in the Bataan nuclear plant booty. Have Lapu-Lapu Mayor Arturo Radaza and ex-Mandaue Mayor Thadeo Ouano made restitution for the overpriced Asean street lamps?

Eduardo Cojuangco and partners hang on to the coconut levy, extorted from small farmers by martial law. And Mega-Pacific hasn't repaid P1.2 billion to the Commission on Elections for defective computers, thumbing its corporate nose at a Supreme Court decision.

Pampanga is a case study of this burgling. Without raising quarry levy rates by a centavo, Pampanga Gov. Eduardo Panlilio collected P88.6 million in 95 days. Transparent governance did the trick. Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid and son, Mark, as governors, took three-and-half years, to collect an equivalent sum, INQUIRER's Tonette Orejas noted.

At this rate, Panlilio will collect P354 million in a year of 313 working days, Columnist Antonio Abaya tallied. In this country, men have killed for less. If assassins don't get "Among Ed," the governor, by the end of his term, will have infused P1.41 billion into Pampanga's anemic treasury.

That's P1.3 billion more than the amount the Lapids put into Pampanga's treasure trove. "Only God and the Lapids know where the difference vanished to," Abaya says. Not even Pampanga's most distinguished daughter? Do plunderers get to keep the plunder?

Pampanga officials won't pin a medal on Panlilio for tutoring a lackadaisical Bureau of Internal Revenue on how to boost tax collections eight times. Mayors instead scramble for "greater control over quarrying," notes Columnist Randy David in his Nov. 17 column "The crisis of cash politics." Through Ordinance 176, the provincial board would strip the governor of tax powers and vest them in associations of quarry operators and officials. The fox will guard the chicken coop.

Cebu City also resorts to financial castration. Mayor Tomas Osmeña would gut the revenue base of a key barangay, Lahug, by smudging tax maps; he'd shuffle lucrative taxpayers into barangays headed by his minions. That would bypass Lahug's multi-awarded and independent Mary Ann de los Santos.

"It is the old system gasping for life," David observes. Such a system rewards crooks by spurning "restitution." But making good for harm done is rooted in justice.

"God himself cannot pardon if ... in matters of thievery, restitution is not made of stolen goods," Jesuit anthropologist Bishop Francisco Claver wrote. (INQUIRER, 11/7/07) And former Sen. Jovito Salonga reminded Estrada earlier of the "Zacchaeus precedent." The tax collector Zacchaeus told the Master: "Half of my goods, I give to the poor. And if I've cheated anyone, I pay him back four times as much."

Must Erap and other "leaders" eat their words to understand Seneca's caution? "The most grievous kind of penury is to want money in the midst of wealth."

* * *

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Salt on wound

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHY AM I NOT SURPRISED?

Barely had the rains seeped into the ground that covered Mariannet Amper's body than the Davao city government was quick to declare it had found "new evidence" to show that Mariannet might not have hanged herself out of desperate straits after all. She might have hanged herself from the trauma of having been raped.

The medico-legal announced that the autopsy on her revealed that her hymen had been broken. The police authorities subsequently theorized rape, summoning the entire family for questioning. They got nothing from any of Mariannet's parents or siblings or cousins by way of corroboration, but they continued to hang on to the theory. And purvey it to the public with the help of media.

Last Friday, I saw Mariannet's father on TV tearfully and indignantly, such as the poor and helpless can be indignant, protesting the idea, specifically since the police were throwing all sorts of unsavory suggestions in his direction. "What are you saying?" he cried before the cameras. "What do you think I am? Do you think I'm such a monster, do you think I'm such a malevolent creature, that I would do such a thing to my daughter? I loved my daughter. I would never have allowed any harm to come to her."

Let us be clear: If the police can convincingly make a case of rape, I would most certainly lend my voice to the condemnation of it and the punishment of the perpetrator. Rape is a heinous crime, and that of a minor completely unforgivable. Particularly where it is compounded by the child taking her own life, no punishment can be enough for someone who has caused this. It's about time we did something about this blight, one that seems to ravage folk living in the slums in particular.

But there's something deeply infuriating about how the Davao authorities are going about this. At the very least, they could have revealed the results of the autopsy long before Mariannet was buried when it would have been possible to corroborate their findings. The only way you can do that now is by exhuming the body.

Why didn't they do it then? Was it consideration for the feelings of the bereaved that made them stay their hand, or hold their tongue, until after it was too late? Well, if so then they shouldn't be called law enforcers or, heaven forbid, authorities. You make a call about right and wrong whatever the circumstances, and no circumstance can be more right than accusing the author of a vile deed in front of the victim of his deed: That is the source of your (moral) authority. Were the police truly serious about their case, they would have made it right there and then, at Mariannet's wake, thereby giving her the justice she deserved. That they didn't do so is enough to make an already cynical public suspect they do not really have a case at all.

What reason would the authorities have to lie?

Plenty. Rodrigo Duterte, who was among the first to broadcast the theory of rape, is an ardent supporter of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and can't particularly like it that his favorite hometown has become the source of this regime's hugest embarrassment—at a time when it's desperately trying to convince the citizens that unbeknownst to them things have never been better for them than today. It is to his, and GMA's, interest to show that no one, least of all a child, commits suicide in this country out of impoverishment and deprivation. The only way 12-year-olds might do so is, well, if they were abused by other people, possibly their fathers or older brothers.

In fact, the sublime, if cruel, irony of it is that it merely drives home the point. The reason the Davao authorities have been able to do this to the Ampers is that they are poor. Had they been rich or middle class, Duterte and company would have thought twice before bandying their speculations freely or broadly hinting at their complicity in an unproven crime lest they get a case filed against them. Because if it isn't true at all, then it is adding insult to injury, then it is rubbing salt on wound. It's bad enough that a father has lost a daughter in those circumstances, and who is probably even now blaming himself for it, having failed to provide for his family. To have oneself accused moreover—if indirectly, if by innuendo, if by speculation, of having had a hand in that death—that is intolerable.

The "indirectly" doesn't make it better. It's not inconceivable that at the end of the day, the police will drop the matter, unless they are willing to exhume the body and allow it to be examined by independent sources. But not after making Mariannet's father and brothers objects of opprobrium of the community, forever hounded by suspicion of having sent one of their own to the grave. Indeed, not after muddling the issue enough to make it appear that a 12-year-old child had hanged herself not because she found life's hardships intolerable—while at this, why would Mariannet include among her wishes jobs for her parents if she found one of them too detestable for words?—but because she might or might not have been raped.

It is infuriating. Made doubly so each time you see that ad about ordinary Filipinos now *ramdam na ramdam na* or feeling to the pit of their soul, or body, the prosperity that is apparently gripping this country. An ad that now overruns TV and spoils my view of the NBA. Mariannet is there to show there's something else gripping this country, there's something else most of us are feeling to the marrow of our bones, and it is not prosperity. Indeed, Mariannet's folks are there to show that if you're poor today, you may not expect to feel only hunger, you may expect to feel oppressed. You may expect to suffer insult on top of injury.

You may expect to have salt rubbed on wound.

Pressuring Asean on Burma

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

I CAME TO KNOW HIM WELL DURING HIS THREE terms in Congress, and I must say it's difficult for me to believe he could have masterminded the bomb blast that killed Rep. Wahab Akbar. Former Basilan Rep. and former Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin is, to quote his colleagues, a decent man; and after renouncing his being an MNLF commander, he turned to the ways of peace and became a responsible House leader. This same sense was reflected in his decision to go to the police to help enlighten them on the Akbar murder and profess his innocence. I hope the authorities would be able to get to the bottom of the case.

* * *

The highlight of the 13th Asean Summit which opened yesterday in Singapore is the presentation of the Asean Charter to the 10 member-states of the Asean for their approval and signature. We ought to take special pride, for the Charter was drafted during the stewardship of the Philippines, which hosted the 12th Asean Summit in Cebu last January. This document took a long time to promulgate because of issues (e.g., human rights) that severely challenged the 40-year-old regional organization's non-interference policy. A high-level task force, chaired by Ambassador Rosario Manalo, put the draft charter together, with inputs from the Eminent Persons Group of which former President Ramos was a member.

It is hoped that, aside from the economic and political provisions, the cultural aspect—under which democratic principles especially on human rights and the dignity of the human person are emphasized—is highlighted. The extrajudicial killings here and the slaying of pro-democracy protesters in Burma (Myanmar) have roused virulent reactions.

* * *

As the Singapore Summit opened, a lot of pressure was put on the Asean to take a stronger action against Burma. Despite some glimmer of reconciliation between the military junta and pro-democracy leader Aung Sang Suu Kyi, US President George Bush and Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda condemned Burma's generals, while the US Senate unanimously approved a resolution urging the Asean to suspend Burma as a member. Even US First Lady Laura Bush has called for a boycott of the auction of Burma's precious gems. (Funds from Burma's periodic auctions are crucial to the junta now that many Western countries have suspended or decreased aid.)

Earlier the UN dispatched Amb. Ibrahim Gambari to Burma to press the generals to reconcile with Suu Kyi; while the European Union, whose revolving presidency is currently held by the United Kingdom, has also stepped up pressure for a resolution. In a lunch with Manila media women recently, British Ambassador Peter Beckingham stressed, "We attach major importance to the possibility of change in Burma as a result of the recent protests there." He spoke to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and other officials about how the Asean and EU can put pressure on the Burmese regime and called on the RP government and Asean to support the Burmese people. It bears watching what the Asean leaders would do vis-à-vis Burma.

* * *

Three Filipino officials join outstanding international leaders tonight, at the Meralco Theater, as winners of this year's Gusi Peace Prize. They are Chief Public Attorney Persida Rueda-Acosta, Presidential Anti-Graft Commission Chair Constancia de Guzman and former Senator and Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez. In the light of the recent Nobel Peace Prize jointly awarded to former US Vice President Al Gore and the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the IPPC's landmark report on global warming, it's right and fitting that the Gusi Peace Prize goes to Alvarez. Now chair of the Philippine Mining Development Corporation, he's recognized principally for his environmental advocacies and pioneering crusade here since the early '90s against global warming and climate change. The Gusi Peace Foundation is chaired by Ambassador Barry Gusi; its president is PCSO Director Manuel Morato.

* * *

Happenings:

- The Israeli Embassy's 8th Film Festival started yesterday and runs up to Nov. 22. New Israeli Ambassador Zvi Vheni hosts the gala opening tonight of "Someone to Run With" at Cinema 5, Greenbelt 3, Makati. A much-acclaimed documentary, handled quite sensitively by famed Israeli director Tomer Heymann and titled "Paper Dolls," will also be shown at at the NCCA in Intramuros at 2 p.m. today and at the UP, La Salle, PWU and FEU in the next few days. "Paper Dolls," which won awards at the recent CineManila and the Berlin Festival in 2006, should be most interesting to us; it tells the story of Filipinos illegally working as caregivers in Israel and in a nightclub during their days off, and the numerous problems they run into until their deportation.
- The "Angelos," the hottest group of young Filipino male singers, some of whom had extensive singing experience abroad, gives another classical-pop concert tonight at 8 p.m. at the Music Museum in Greenhills, San Juan. Billed as the Pinoy version of the Italian rage "Il Divo," they gave a concert last month for the benefit of the Alay sa Kawal Foundation. Don't miss them tonight.
- Galileo Enoteca, the only restaurant in Manila serving Sicilian cuisine and wines, celebrates its second anniversary today. Started by Vanessa Vitrano, a 23-year-old Italian-Filipina HRM graduate of De La Salle-St. Benilde, Galileo Enoteca is the fulfillment of her graduation thesis. It's a family affair—her dad, Gaetano Vitrano of Montemaggiore, Sicily, is the firm's president, her aunt is the cook, and Vanessa runs the operations, sales and marketing. Located at the ground floor of Reyes Gym at Calbayog corner Malinao Streets in Mandaluyong, with a branch on Pasong Tamo in Makati, it can be reached at 534-4633 or 532-0482.

'Tale of two cities'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FROM 1996 to 2006, WRITES DR. JONATHAN Flavier, "there were two divergent family planning policies in Quezon City and the City of Manila. With the leadership of Mayor Sonny Belmonte, family planning was encouraged; and an essentially non-existent budget for family planning services and commodities was increased to more than P10 million per year. On the other hand, Mayor Lito Atienza started his three terms by issuing a notorious executive order that discouraged most of the modern methods of family planning. He constrained family planning choices throughout those nine years in office, and "rewarded" families with many children.

"As a result, women have cried out in misery in Manila while more cheered the availability of opportunities to space pregnancies and to manage family size in Quezon City."

Culling data from the Department of Health's Field Health Service Information System, Flavier tracks just two indicators: live births per 1,000 population, and maternal deaths per 100,000 married women of reproductive age in the two cities in the decade he mentions. The graphs alone tell a most obvious and moving story.

While the birth rate declined rather steeply in Quezon City—from 35 per 100,000 in 1996 to just three or four per 100,000 in 2006, it basically remained the same in Manila—from 27 per 100,000 in 1996, to 23 per 100,000 in 2006. The figures for maternal mortality—deaths of women due to causes related to pregnancy or child birth—tell an even more dramatic tale. Maternal mortality declined in Quezon City, from 10 per 100,000 in 1996, shooting up to 14 per 100,000 in 1997, then tapering off to about three per 100,000 in 2006. In Manila, maternal mortality rates rose steadily: from about seven per 100,000 in 1996, reaching a peak of about 12 per 100,000 in 2005 and tapering to about seven per 100,000 in 2006. (I suspect the data for 2006 was still incomplete, thus the small numbers.)

* * *

JONDI Flavier, son of Juan Flavier, a former health secretary and former senator, and who is himself a health and family planning advocate, concludes that "the reports from the health departments of these two cities give us some basis to decide what policy is better for women, couples and their children. Supporting family planning reduces the deaths of women that are often caused by getting pregnant too often or too many times, getting pregnant at very young or old ages, and when the woman is too sick or unable to nurture more children."

There's a saying in the women's movement that "the personal is political." In the case of reproductive health policy, the reverse is also true—"the political is personal."

A local executive's decision to support or hinder reproductive health programs, particularly family planning, for whatever reason, has a real, visceral impact on the healths and lives not just of women, but even of their male partners and their children. An untimely (and probably unwanted) pregnancy endangers not just a woman's health and life, but also her children's chances of survival. A Unicef study notes that the biggest cause of death of children under five is "the birth of another sibling," that comes before the child is three years of age because this means the cessation of breastfeeding, and even less food for everyone.

Then Mayor Atienza used to "reward" big families with a sack of rice and some money whenever he came to visit depressed areas. But this not only fostered an alarming sense of mendicancy, it was also obviously inadequate. On one hand he tried to help the parents, with irregular, unreliable subsidies, to care for their growing broods. On the other he took away their ability to limit the size of their families and to decide for themselves how best to raise their children.

* * *

PERHAPS aware that Mayor Belmonte is on his third term (he ran unopposed in the last election) and that his successor could very well overturn his policies—if he or she had a mind to—the Quezon City Anti-poverty Task Force, composed of 12 departments of the city government, drafted a proposed ordinance to "protect" the city's reproductive health program.

City Councilor Joseph "Sep" Juico agreed to be the main sponsor mainly because he also believed such an important policy, which has vital implications on the health and lives of the poor, needed to be "institutionalized," protected as it were from partisan bickering and budget uncertainties.

But from the moment he filed the proposed ordinance in August, Juico has come under fire from the Catholic Church and has been called names, one of which is being an "abortionist."

In a privilege speech he delivered last Nov. 12, Juico responded to accusations that the ordinance is "pro-abortion." "This ordinance explicitly opposes abortion; in no way does it encourage or support abortion," he said. "The ordinance underscores that abortion is illegal and is punishable under our criminal laws .... Abortion is not the same as preventing conception from taking place—which is what condoms, pills, IUD and the like do .... At bottom, the goal of the ordinance is to prevent abortions from ever taking place."

* * *

IN AN INTERVIEW, Juico says all he wants to do at this point is "to listen to all the sides, and use their views to refine the ordinance." He says: "I appeal to everyone, not just to the Catholic leaders, not to jump to conclusions and to wait for the proper venue, like a public hearing, to make themselves heard."

But in the noise and din that church authorities are whipping up in Quezon City, it's difficult to make oneself heard, much less have a meaningful dialogue. If it's noise they want, then perhaps it's time women, men and children also had their say in Quezon City.

Is advertising good for democracy?

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

THIS WEEK, ALL ROADS LEAD TO SUBIC. THE Ad Congress, the advertising industry's biennial extravaganza—part conference of ideas, part festival of winning works, part street party of loud and lively revelers—begins tomorrow in the former American naval base. At one time one of the biggest military installations outside the United States, Subic is a fitting venue to discuss the power of advertising. After all, what is "projection of force" by forward-deployed units if not advertising in its most fundamental form?

* * *

Watching the press screening of "Beowulf" last week led me back to our own ancient epics, to Lam-ang (who was in such a hurry to fight he took to the battlefield at the age of nine months), to Sandayo (who was born Athena-like by falling out of his mother's hair on the ninth stroke), to Agyu. (A 1983 volume on five Philippine epics, prepared by University of the Philippines professors for a series on Asean literatures, is an invaluable source and a rattling good read.) A trope common to all these epics, Beowulf included, is the search for a hero, a protector, "the man for the people."

I have been around Among Ed, the priest-governor of Pampanga, enough times to know that his improbable victory and his counter-traditional politics excite the same kind of epic longing among some weary voters. I shared the stage with him in the late afternoon session of the American Studies Association of the Philippines general conference at the UP last Saturday, and I noticed the same kind of excitement take hold of many in the audience. I may have the chance to write about this next time; in the meantime, I will upload our remarks to both the Newsstand and INQUIRER Current blogs.

Also, I found an instructive error in one of Benedict Anderson's capsule surveys of Philippine history, and was moved by this discovery and by my own error-ridden experience last week to consider what Frank Kermode calls the uses of error. But not now. Now we consider the uses of advertising.

* * *

Is advertising good for democracy?

This seems like a counter-intuitive question to ask. Daniel Boorstin famously described advertising as the "characteristic rhetoric of democracy." By that he meant that it was the language in which the democratic impulse—"to give everybody everything"—finds its supreme expression.

That is certainly a promise that many advertisements effortlessly fulfill. The ads that offer cheaper rates or better pricing packages for the use of SMS, for example, are about as grassroots-democratic as one can get. Communication makes community, and the consumer's newfound ability to text more for less is empowering.

(I am also reminded of something a telecommunications expert said back in the beginning of time, that is to say in the year 2000: For an overseas worker in, say, Hong Kong, a cheaper rate for calling back home meant a better quality of life.)

Advertising is also relentlessly democratic in the sense that, together with soap operas and variety shows, it provides us with the common language, the lingua franca, of everyday life.

Those who work with small groups, whether in school assemblies or parish communities or business planning sessions, can confirm this phenomenon: when small groups are tasked with very little time to make a presentation in story form, they often use narratives popularized in commercials: the mother who keeps up with the Joneses in KFC, the encounter between old rivals Manny Pacquiao and Erik Morales in SMB.

So far, so "masa." The problem lies elsewhere, in advertising's breathtaking power to make us forget. "Erasure," Boorstin called it. "Insofar as advertising is competitive or innovation is widespread, erasure is required in order to persuade consumers that this year's model is superior to last year's."

Hence, Juan Ponce Enrile's stunning transformation, in the 1987 elections, from Cory Aquino's headache into a born-again statesman (complete with heavenly sunlight as backdrop). Hence, Francis Escudero's successful crossover, in this year's elections, from the leader of the House opposition who can only say no, to a leader who says yes to nonnegotiable principles. Hence, Jamby Madrigal's effective and massively funded transition, in the 2004 elections, from ex-Estrada cabinet member to Judy Ann Santos' best friend. (At a rally I covered in Batangas, I heard Madrigal say, "If you vote for me, I will come back here with Juday," or words to the same grating effect.)

Advertising, therefore, requires some form of memory loss, or is predicated on aggressively burying old memories under new sensations, to move the consumer-citizen to buy the new product, the new and improved candidate. (Enrile again: In 2004, he successfully ran for the Senate as a single-issue candidate, on the controversial purchased power arrangement, effectively redefining himself all over again.)

Don't get me wrong. Advertising today subsidizes much of the work of media; for that reason alone, it is very much a force for good in democracy. I never tire of quoting Raymond Aron's practical defense of a free press. "Success," he said, is "the one and only condition of independence." At another time, he described such success in terms of a "sufficiently prosperous and liberal" press.

But advertising's power of erasure should give all of us pause. "The struggle of man against power," Milan Kundera wrote, "is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

* * *

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People

YOUNG BLOOD

Samuel Bautista

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

EXCEPT FOR PRESIDENTS, I HAVE PROBABLY MET ALL kinds of people—politicians, lawyers, journalists, criminals, scholars, con artists, businessmen, pimps, ex-convicts, doctors, actors, sailors, security guards—all kinds!

No man is an island, said John Donne. People come and go in our lives. Our lives are enriched or destroyed by people; our experiences with other people can make or break us. But in the end, our lives are all intertwined, like the threads of a magnificent tapestry designed by a master weaver.

We meet people and we either like them or not. It is said that first impressions are lasting. But I guess we know of persons who turn out to be different from our first impressions. Either he's better than we thought him to be, or he could turn out to be our worst nightmares.

There are some people who radiate with good vibes the first time we meet them. We feel as if we've known them for a long time. None of those awkward moments with strangers; the getting-to-know-you period is just a formality. We simply get along with them so naturally.

And then there are people we really dislike the moment we meet them. All it takes is just one look, and we're sure of our feelings for them. Mind you, I'm not saying that the feeling is purely on the physical level. There is more to that: jammed psychic vibrations, like two people's frequencies gone haywire?

How do you explain that? You don't. You may have your theories on why you have felt this or that feeling for a complete stranger or new acquaintance, but the fact is, people believe what they want to believe. You may like a person because she reminds you of your former lover; that person may like you because she thinks you're her mother in her past life in Pompeii. Anyway, the important thing is to get along with each other.

But remember: you have to like yourself first before you can be liked. Then again, you may be the most neurotic, manic depressive creature on this planet and people will still flock to you. Misery, after all, loves company.

The bottom line is: People are people and you can't live without them so you might as well get used to the idea that they're here to stay.

Me, I just sing George Michael's "Kissing A Fool": People/you can never change the way they feel/ Better let them do just what they will/ for they will..."

Samuel Bautista, 24, has a degree in Business Administration from the University of the East. He is currently self-employed and is preparing for his masteral studies.

Vicious politics

John Mychal A. Feraren

I USED TO BELIEVE THAT AMONG THE SOCIAL SCIENCES, political science was the least useful. Maybe it was because I used to think that life was a sweet candy. Of course, I was wrong.

My mother used to be our barangay chairperson. She was not perfect, I admit, but I know she really tried hard to fulfill her promises to the people. She promised them that she would introduce reforms in our barangay. Indeed, there were some visible results. Our barangay, though located in a city, once looked like a remote rural village. When my mother assumed the chairmanship of our barangay, she and her colleagues made the place more pleasant for its residents.

A flashback: When she was not yet the chairperson, the organization of which she was one of the leaders worked for water service and electricity to reach some parts of our barangay. The organization even gave school supplies to less fortunate youths.

As I said, she was not perfect but she was an exemplary public servant nonetheless. I thought everything was going fine until her friends (when she was still a private citizen) started to say nasty things against her. While she was busy implementing her programs, her "friends" were also busy destroying her name.

When we talked about it, she said it was fine, but the pain in her eyes was obvious. I started hating those people.

Her job as the chairperson was tough. Four of the council members opposed her. One used to be a very good friend, but he turned into her foe when she stopped him from carrying out unlawful activities. The four councilors even charged her with corruption, a false charge because otherwise our family would not have money problems.

My mother's "popularity" even reached a wider audience when a provincial newspaper owned by a neighbor (of all people) started writing negative articles about her, including her alleged corruption and abuse of authority. These were unfounded charges, because if indeed she was corrupt, we would have had bountiful sources, and if she were abusive, our barangay would not have become as peaceful as it is today.

In the last election, this irresponsible journalist ran against my mother. I do not want to say that he cheated, because I have grown tired of the cliché that no one loses an election in the Philippines—he is always cheated of victory. But unfortunately, he won.

My mother lost her position to someone whose residency has been questioned since he did not live in our barangay for more than five years. More painfully, her old friends supported her destroyer. So the number of votes she got was not even close to the winner's.

I wonder what happened to the 45 percent who did not vote. I wonder what those who accepted a kilo of rice, a pack of noodles and P200 were thinking when they sold their votes. I wonder how those who perpetrated fraud can now boast about it.

Politics is vicious. I have seen it for myself. The people whom my mother considered to be her friends destroyed her.

If electoral cheating, turncoatism and betrayal happen in the smallest political unit of the country, I am not surprised that such things happen on a national scale.

John Mychal A. Feraren, 18, is a sophomore at the University of the Philippines in Los Baños.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

If you are sending your contributions by e-mail, please address it to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address and information about your age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with.

Palace 'payola' a bigger bomb

WHAT HAPPENED LAST OCT. 11 was a blast more disastrous and catastrophic than the Oct. 19 explosion in Glorietta 2, which killed 11 persons. That disaster in Malacañang, where money changed hands among the elite, undoubtedly killed the faith and trust of millions of Filipinos in their leaders, and it could have certainly killed also the dreams of young Filipinos because money that should have gone to their education was diverted and given to those who already have.

Amando Doronila aptly described the explosion in the Palace in his Oct. 17 column: "Last Thursday, Malacañang resembled a feeding trough of a piggery farm when 190 congressmen and 48 provincial governors assembled to receive cash gifts ranging from P200,000 to P500,000 each ..."

It would be timely to quote again Oliver Goldsmith's "The Deserted Village":

"Ill fares the land; to hast'ning ills a prey.

Where wealth accumulates, and men decay."

One notes also the INQUIRER's Oct. 17 editorial cartoon, which in its own inimitable but incisive manner captured the essence of what happened in Malacañang last Oct. 11: The figure of Gov. Ed Panlilio, holding a bag marked "P.5 million," stands before what looks like a medieval rampart with a Malacañang sign, asking this question: "What's this for?" and somebody (like Banquo's voice reminding us of "something rotten in Denmark?") answers from behind the door:

"It's called a BRIBE, Father. And where you are it's called POLITICS."

One is reminded of the social scientist Harold D. Lasswell, who famously defined politics thus: "Who gets what, when and how?"—and how! We can only say that what happened last Oct. 11 in Malacañang was "a flagrant and arrogant scandal," to borrow the words of retired Justice Isagani A. Cruz in his Oct. 21 column.

—EDMUNDO HOLAZO ESCALANTE,
former president,
IBP Sorsogon Chapter

Prick the conscience of politicians?

THAT POOR, NOBLE SOUL named Conrado de Quiros can pummel politicians with precise and descriptive words like "shameless," "insatiable," "plunderers," "thieves," "shysters," "rapists," etc. But if his purpose is to prick their conscience then his efforts are in vain. Only the naïve can grant politicians something that is akin to conscience.

If his purpose is to rouse the people from their "slumber" by telling them that they are being screwed, he could be wrong again. By the look of things, the people are not asleep. They are just closing their eyes, the better to fully savor the pleasure of being raped.

If the people appear to be groaning, wailing and gasping for breath, it is not because they are clamoring for relief, respite or rescue. They probably are just petitioning the heavens for new rapists. The people slept with Marcos for 20 years; when they got bored with him, they cuddled up to the "Kamaganaks," then slept with a sleek operator, then caroused with a buffoon.

Now they are blatantly flirting with the aggregate embodiment of all the previous gangs, who is taking liberties not only with their taxes and lives but also with their sensibilities. So? Well, part of the population is glued to TV, lapping up the latest gossip thrown up by those ugly deviants; another is picking noses while morosely staring at stupid commercials, while the rest doesn't give a damn.

Meantime my most admired columnist is beseeching the heavens for answers as to why the people seem so numbed to the abuses.

—A.M. TAYO,
rafaella_ml@yahoo.com

Mariannet's death is Arroyo's fault

THIS IS A REACTION ON THE news item "Girl, 12, loses hope, hangs herself." (INQUIRER, 11/8/ 07)

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's insensitive regime should be held responsible for indirectly causing Mariannet Amper's suicide. Her death comes at a time when government spin doctors want us to believe that the Philippine economy is improving.

It took a Mariannet to make us realize that the Arroyo administration is duping us—lying through its teeth—into believing the country's much-ballyhooed yet generally unfelt economic miracles. We have been bombarded with advertisements showing ordinary Filipinos boastfully claiming that they could already strongly feel (*randam na randam*) the country's economic progress. Unfortunately, Mariannet failed to benefit from Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's trumpeted "economic progress." This poor child would not have taken her life if she had felt that things were getting better as GMA and her underlings would want us to believe.

Mariannet's death makes us cry for our poor and seemingly hopeless nation. But, more importantly, it gives us more reason to clamor for the ouster of a regime, which aside from being of doubtful legitimacy, has miserably failed to solve the extreme hunger, poverty and sense of deprivation and hopelessness gripping the majority of Filipinos.

Mourn if we must for Mariannet, but we can do her and other Filipino children a greater service if we will help remove the biggest impediment to genuine economic progress: the illegitimate, insensitive and corrupt-to-the-bones Arroyo regime. Our battle cry should be: Justice for Mariannet! Justice to the people! Oust Gloria!

—DAVID MICHAEL M. SAN JUAN,
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Filipinos can learn from Musharraf

THE EDITORIAL "ONCE A DICTATOR" (INQUIRER, 11/8/07) is regrettable, not only in its suggestion to take back the Congressional Medal of Achievement awarded by the Philippine Congress to Gen. Pervez Musharraf in 2005, but also in its failure to mention the general's achievements since he took power in 1999.

Better than his two successors (ex-Prime Ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif) did, General Musharraf has governed Pakistan with greater political and economic stability. He has also instituted many electoral reforms in Pakistan, the most important of which is the requirement that candidates be at least high school graduates.

Indeed, in a country so difficult to rule, such as Pakistan, where religion and politics are intertwined in people's daily life, and where its porous border with Afghanistan allows terrorists to enter it virtually unhindered, it would surely take a strong leader to lead a country with nuclear capability and strong influence in the Islamic world.

It is more regrettable that the INQUIRER editorial suggested a false comparison between former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. Senator Aquino was jailed, tortured and assassinated—a true-to-form hero. But Bhutto was given an easy, fresh start to campaign for elections in 1987. She was elected to rule Pakistan twice—in 1988 and 1995; in both instances, her government was dismissed for inefficiency and corruption. She allowed her husband Asif Sardar Ali, known in Pakistan as "Mr. 10%," to meddle in lucrative government contracts and obtain kickbacks in the process.

During her term, she recognized the Taliban regime, which she knew was fanatical, oppressive and murderous, just to appease the ethnic Pashtun tribal leaders in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, who share an affinity with the Afghanis. Not only did she waste her two opportunities to lead Pakistan, she disgraced the illustrious name of her father, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

It is unfair and unjust to instantly brand a strong leader a "dictator" without looking at his positive achievements. Even Indira Gandhi, at one time during her leadership of India (the world's biggest democracy), had to declare martial law.

We Filipinos take pride in our restored democracy since 1986, but 21 years since then, have we made much progress? Perhaps, we should examine our democracy first, see how brittle our democracy is, and notice how it is presently degenerating into anarchy, before we judge Musharraf, because there are many things to learn from his "benevolent" dictatorship.

—RONALD LARA,
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SSS contributions: forced investment

I READ THE LETTER OF THE Philippine Veterans Affairs Office about its shortcomings, specifically in addressing Virginia Tan's concern. (INQUIRER, 10/20/07)

Like many workers today, my father had his share of unfaltering SSS deductions in his 24 years of service in several private companies. He retired in 2001 and began getting a fixed monthly pension.

Last year, somebody advised him that the pension he has been receiving might not be commensurate to the sum of contributions he had actually made. A close scrutiny of his records revealed that there was indeed a significant discrepancy between the records used to calculate his pension and the record of his total contribution.

We have since sent several requests and made numerous follow-ups at various SSS offices. It has been almost a year now, and we have yet to get a clear response to some very simple questions: Is an adjustment really due? If so, when will it be effected?

Sadly, a recent visit to our local SSS branch only reaffirmed our suspicion that nobody is taking responsibility for this oversight. We were just referred from one office to another without a clear sign that we have made progress with our claim. Maybe the SSS is hoping that we would just get tired of following up and give up.

I have been working in the private sector for over five years now and, as in my father's time, SSS deductions remain as certain as daylight, notwithstanding the rumors that the SSS may not be able to meet its members' claims in the future. I am deeply concerned that even if it does get its act together, the SSS can still give no guarantee that we, its members, will get a fair share of return from our investment—which we didn't choose to make in the first place.

—ALVIN RIBANO,
0175 Marawoy,
Lipa City, Batangas

REFORM LTO!
TWG - BMP

TRANSPORT workers stage a motorcade rally at the LTO office earlier this month. FILE PHOTO

Also look at passenger comfort, not just transport fares

THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN in to the demand of jeepney operators and drivers to raise fares. How about compelling them to comply with safety and capacity requirements for the passengers' sake?

Nowadays, jeepney passengers have to bear with callous drivers who don't care at all about passenger safety and convenience. Fourteen-seat passenger jeepneys are packed to accommodate 16 passengers, and on rush hours even 18 passengers. Jeepneys should be required to carry a big sign as to their standard seating capacity.

Also, long jeepneys are always the cause of traffic jams because they are driven at a very slow pace—making a mockery of the "moving traffic" concept being pushed by MMDA Chairman Bayani Fernando—as their drivers hope to pick up more passengers.

The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, before granting the request of jeepney operators and drivers, should have looked into this problem.

—RAUL LORETO,
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3 basic ingredients of good government

IN VIEW OF THE RAPIDLY DETERIORATING state of affairs in our nation, allow me to tell this story about Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher (551-479 B.C.):

A disciple of Confucius asked the master, "What are the basic ingredients of a good government?"

Confucius answered, "First sufficient food; next, sufficient weapons; and last, the confidence of the people."

"But," continued the disciple, "suppose then that you had to dispense with one of these three things, which would you forgo?"

"Weapons," said the master.

"Suppose then that you were forced to choose between one of the two left, which would you forgo?" the disciple persisted.

Confucius answered, "Food. From of old, death has been the lot of all men, but a people that no longer trusts its rulers is lost, indeed." ("1000 Stories You Can Use" by Frank Mihalic)

One will find that in the Philippines, the first two ingredients mentioned in the narrative—food and weapons—have become deplorably scarce and inferior.

SWS' latest survey showed that 21.5 percent of our population, that is 3.8 million Filipino families, suffered hunger in the past three months. As to weapons, those in the arsenal of our Armed Forces have been shown to be substandard. Look, for example, at what happened to the 14 Marines who were ambushed in Basilan last July 20, 2007. It turned out that most of the mortar shells they had with them were duds. This is not to mention the obsolete Huey helicopters, of Vietnam War vintage, donated to our government by the Pentagon.

Alas, what is worse is that even the third and last ingredient that Confucius considered the most vital for good government—confidence of the people—is now alarmingly at its lowest ebb in this tiny republic. The reason for this?

Human rights violations (extralegal killings and enforced disappearances) which have effectively ranked the Philippines just a few notches below the military junta-ruled Burma; the various scandals so strikingly linked with the present administration: the "Hello Garci" scandal, the NBN-ZTE mess and, the latest, the "cash gifts" to congressmen and local leaders right in Malacañang, and the highly controversial pardon granted by President Macapagal-Arroyo to Joseph Estrada.

—ROGELIO C. BARCELONA,
23 Sitio Fatima, Himlayan Road,
Barangay Pasong Tamo, QC

Shameful admission about corruption by Ombudsman

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL came out with the 2007 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) which showed that the Philippines is deeper into the pit of corruption.

In response, Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez brushed off the report, saying the Philippines' rank in the 2007 CPI is the same as its CPI ranking in 2006.

The Ombudsman should be ashamed that the country has not improved in Transparency International's assessment. That means she and her office have done nothing to reduce corruption, yet she is claiming success.

For as long as the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Audit continue to be corrupt, graft and corruption will always be with us and our people will likewise continue to suffer.

Armed insurgency will continue for as long as corruption continues. Insurgents use the issue of rampant corruption to justify their call for change of government.

—LIGORIO GM NAVAL,
114-B Alima, Bacoor, Cavite

What's wrong, or right, with this picture?

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

WE RAISED A HOWL OVER "DESPERATE Housewives." We got 127,230 signatures traveling through cyberspace demanding and getting an apology and corrective action from the ABC network. In comparison, GMA will receive around 200 "I am sorry. You are evicted na" postcards. The slur on our medical schools deserved the protest but how come we can't raise as much outrage over the crippling blows dealt by dirty politics?

There are pockets of protest. Steady cyberspace "mandirigma" Vicente "Enteng" Romano continues to mobilize this new frontier. Harvey S. Keh is drumming up support for embattled Father-Governor Ed of Pampanga who is being isolated by his provincial board. (Are they probably missing the "pittance"?) As of November 14, some 1,700 "strangers in cyberspace" have e-mailed heartwarming support.

"Crimes against the people" come thick and fast with none solved: Hello Garci, Lintang Bedol, extra-judicial killings and disappearances. In terms of money, a reader has listed some for us: the P1.3-billion election computerization contract, the alleged P532-million overpricing of Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, the P200-million Jose Pidal case, the $500-million North Rail Project, Bolante and the P728-million fertilizer scam. The latest mind-blowers are the $329-million NBN-ZTE deal, the six-figure cash gifts to congresspersons and governors in Malacañang and the lightning Estrada pardon—not to mention the millions per congressman!

We get breathless just naming the above. Meanwhile, GMA keeps asking us to "move on" and helplessly we cover our noses at the stinking remains on the wayside. If I were a cartoonist I would draw her surfing a crest while below her are Juan and Juana de la Cruz drowning in a tsunamic undertow with deadly debris. We hardly meet anybody who is not bewailing the state of affairs. As with Mariel Francisco and former Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, the stress is getting into our marrows. Z.C. Beltran writes: "my mind is in a shambles, my knees are shaking and my stomach is churning out of anger."

But we survive. Moots Baluyot says, "business has a life of its own." And so it seems do our poor and many of us. It's as if we can go on indefinitely with or without a leader.

Unfortunately, we also forget. Estrada, again lustily greeted by crowds, is strutting like a presidential peacock. Senator Villar and others have sidled to his side. For two seasons, no rice has been planted in stretches of rice fields in our hometown. The irrigation system is "broken" and the long-suffering farmers don't know how to go after their congressman. And how come a very religious community like ours had a mere 20 percent turn-out in the Oct. 29 barangay elections, followed by the usual accusations and counter-accusations of cheating and herding? The question has already been asked: Why is the most Christian country in Asia also the most corrupt?

And then Mariannet Amper happened! That the Church quibbled over her funeral rites is dismaying. Is the Church captive to the letter of Canon Law rather than to the spirit of the compassionate Shepherd whose calling is to gather and not to separate? The Church relented but only after she hesitated over the final rites for a real and symbolical victim of poverty, a 12-year-old girl whose continued absence from school (and who knows what else) broke her heart and her life.

But bishop Francisco Claver S.J's candor (INQUIRER 11/9/07) about bishops discussing and disagreeing is so refreshing. At the very least it shows a collegial body coming to grips with issues and not just keeping a solid front at all cost and at all times. Facades no longer fool adults.

Realpolitik has some things to say. First, columnist Antonio Abaya writes that we have no more options: not impeachment, coup, a caretaker junta, snap elections, resign-all, people power. Only one alternative remains: a new public figure with clear moral ascendancy. Second, we have no more public servants with heroic and noble proportions; only clowns, corrupt and corrupting politicians and their dynasties. Even the Sangguniang Kabataan is early training ground for dirty tricks, not public service. "We have lost our magic." We're wandering in a desert and there is no "Little Prince" to open our eyes. But third, there are still heroic men around. Biographer Lita Pedrosa Hidalgo saw one in Eduardo Quintero. And reader J. Santillan Jr. wrote that Quintero was not alone even in the gathering darkness before Martial Law. Being floated are the names of Gawad Kalinga's Antonio Meloto and Father-Governor Ed Panlilio. "You lead ... we follow!" writes Global Filipino Nation, inviting Gov. Ed to "build on his model to effect government change in the Homeland."

Tina Maramba talks patience. "It's part of the process. God is the best organizer and things will happen in God's time." But I tell her; the process is taking too long. Damage is already too big. Why aren't we taking off? Are we easy marks not only of "Desperate Housewives" but captives of a desperate situation?

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda_ph@yahoo.com : fax 8284454

Putting climate change refugees on the map

VALENCIA, SPAIN—EVEN AS UN CLIMATE scientists here debate the fine print of a report designed to help forestall the ravages of global warming, a new class of victims has already emerged.

Call them climate refugees. They are a reality, and yet they do not exist—at least not in the nomenclature of the international organizations set up to protect the rights and dignity of the world's most vulnerable people.

Because they flee environments made unlivable by shifting weather patterns or rising seas rather than political persecution or war, these refugees slip between the cracks into a bureaucratic gray zone.

However, an unlikely band of French photographers and journalists is bearing witness to the devastating impact of rising global temperatures on the daily lives of ordinary people.

After four years wandering the globe, from the dust bowl that used to be Lake Chad to the melting permafrost of Alaska to the sinking island paradise of Tuvalu, the Argos Collective has put the fruit of their investigations between covers.

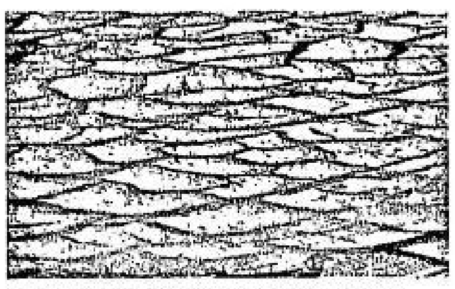
Already published in French and soon to appear in English, "Climate Refugees" published by Infolio is the first book devoted exclusively to showing the consequences of climate change up close and personal.

Using the massive 2,500-page report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the scientists who wrote it as their guides, the Argos Collective pinpointed nine locales in which global warming has played at least a major role in making life difficult, if not unbearable.

"Our job is to tell stories we have heard and bear witness to what we have seen," said Guy-Pierre Chomette, one of the collective's three writers and six photographers, all freelance.

"The science was already there when we started in 2004, but we wanted to emphasize the human dimension of the problem, especially for those most vulnerable," he said.

Starting with a single magazine assignment, the collective gradually attracted government and corporate backing for the project.



Exposed mud banks at the Fervenza reservoir in Dumbria, Spain, where the water is far below usual levels. AFP PHOTO

Gripping narratives

The narratives were rendered all the more gripping by the dignity of those profiled.

There was Mina, an Inupiak from the tiny hamlet of Shishmaref in Alaska, watching the waves drag her house into the sea at a time of year—late October—when the ocean should have already frozen over.

Temperatures near the Arctic have risen faster than anywhere in the world, and the result has been the rapid upending of an entire ecosystem.

Mina remembered playing checkers with her grandfather 30 years ago, when the house was a safe 100 meters from the sea. Soon the entire village, perched on a shrinking island, will disappear.

Also profiled were Uncle Mannnan a his wife, living in a dirt house on a d dike struggling to hold back the brackish water of the mangroves that spread like tentacles along the coast of Bangladesh.

The invasion of salt water has long ago killed off their rice fields and cows, and the couple now subsist by working on shrimp farms and foraging in the pirate-invested mangroves.

Nearly 300 million people live in these delicately balanced flood plains throughout Asia.

There are "many factors that could cause populations to leave the regions where they live, and to become climate refugees," Jean Jouzel, France's foremost climate scientist, said in an introduction to the book.

Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, New York, cited the war in Sudan's Darfur as an example where climate change had already driven a badly stressed region over the brink.

"Darfur is a place that has had about one third of its usual precipitation over the last 50 years, it's also had a big increase in population at the same time, so it is being squeezed badly between falling water availability and rising population," he told Agence France Presse.

"We're going to see a lot of that in the future, because there are a lot of poor, fragile, conflict-ridden or conflict-prone areas, especially in the dry lands, that are likely to be in the line of fire, as it were, of climate change."

The Argos Collective has not yet decided whose stories to tell next, but they will be related to the environment. "There are too many stories to be told," Chomette said. *AFP*

Climate change imperils decades of Asia progress

From page A1

region were already feeling the effects of climate change. These communities face a dire future unless the international community acts at next month's climate change meetings in Bali, Indonesia, to control rising greenhouse gases.

"Before the Bali meeting, we must make our voices heard and demand international leaders take urgent and ambitious action while placing climate change at the heart of their plans," Saleem Huq, head of climate change for the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development, said in a statement.

"Without this, Asia's vulnerable will continue to suffer; as will communities worldwide who are contributing least to climate change but continuing to suffer the most," he said.

The report by 35 private organizations, including the humanitarian group Oxfam and environmental group Greenpeace, comes two days after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that global warming is "unequivocal" and carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere commits the world to an eventual rise in sea levels of up to 1.40 meters (4.6 feet).

The IPCC report found that warming temperatures could result in 75 million to 250 million people in Africa suffering water shortages by 2020 and residents of Asia's large cities facing a greater risk of river and coastal flooding.

Earlier in the year, the IPCC reported that 130 million people in Asia could suffer severe food and water shortages by 2050 unless international action is urgently taken.

On the frontline

The umbrella group of greens and aid groups, which prepared the Up in Smoke report, said Asia was on the frontline of the climate change threat.

"Asia is at a critical juncture as the home to almost two-thirds of humanity. It has made real advances in reducing poverty but lies on the frontline of impacts from climate change," said coauthor Andrew Simms.

"Now if it follows a fossil-fueled Western economic development path, it will set in train an irreversible course of events that will guarantee a great reversal in its own progress," added Simms of the New Economics Foundation.

The Up in Smoke report painted a portrait of communities already struggling to adapt to changing weather patterns.

Over half of Asia's four billion-strong population lives near coasts, putting them in danger from rises in sea levels, while more extreme weather patterns threaten the whole region, according to the report.

Droughts are on the rise in China and India, while Bangladesh has been hit by worsening floods and natural disasters, including Tropical Cyclone Sidr which recently killed thousands of people.

Pacific island villages have been forced to relocate because of rising sea levels while melting glaciers have contributed to a decline in runoff to countries that depend on them for drinking water and irrigation.

Moving away from coal

The report urged India and China, the region's two biggest economies and emerging global giants, to move away from coal in favor of renewable power that could provide them with long-term energy security.

Chinese agricultural productivity will fall by 5-10 percent if no action is taken, with the production of wheat, rice and corn decreasing by up to 37 percent in the second half of this century, according to the report.

India could be threatened by energy and food supply insecurity, reduced fresh water supplies and increases in extreme weather events, the report said.

Calls to rich countries

The Up in Smoke report called on rich industrialized nations to act "first and fastest" in committing to make mandatory cuts in greenhouse gases and do more to provide green technologies to the developing world.

"To prevent catastrophic global warming, the only feasible alternative is for wealthy countries to dramatically reduce their 'luxury' greenhouse gas emissions, so that the 'survival' emissions of people in poor countries do not cause disaster," Simms said.

The report also called on rich countries to provide more financial resources to help poor communities cope with global warming. Disaster preparedness should also be better funded and organized.

"The ongoing erratic weather conditions experienced the world over mean a daily struggle for the millions of poor people who rely on the land and sea for their survival," Oxfam International's Bert Maerten said in a statement.

"Oxfam wants to see governments taking both mitigation and adaptation efforts seriously now and in the future." *Reports from AP and AFP*

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MILF allays MNLF fears on new pact

Rebel leaders extend hand of unity to rival guerrillas

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) is reaching out to leaders of its rival group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), following an agreement that the MILF reached with government negotiators to set up a separate entity that could encroach on territory that was put under MNLF jurisdiction under the 1996 peace agreement.

The MILF said it was also trying to talk with the MNLF to consolidate the two groups' positions on key issues that have impact on the lives of Moro people in Mindanao.

Khaled Musa, MILF deputy chair for information, said that even before Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita called for a united MILF-MNLF, his group had been reaching out "to our brethren to have a common stand on Mindanao issues that affect Moro people."

United stand

He said the MILF needed the support of every Muslim for the peace process to succeed.

Ermita said on Sunday the MNLF would have to eventually sit down with its former breakaway group, the MILF, to unify their concepts of a Bangsamoro Autonomous Government.

"The two of them would have to talk because they will represent the Bangsamoro Autonomous Government. There could not be separate Bangsamoro concepts of the MNLF and MILF," Ermita was quoted as saying.

"We are inclusive in case we succeed to sign a peace deal with the government, because the peace deal is not for the MILF alone," Musa said in a statement.

In the past, MILF and MNLF leaders had met on several occasions in efforts to put up a unified front that would deal with the government in achieving peace in Mindanao.

Those meetings were fruitless as then MNLF chair Nur Misuari and the late MILF chair Hashim Salamat failed to settle differences.

Musa said the MILF stance in the final peace agreement being hammered out was for complete implementation but stressed that the MILF central committee was convinced it did not solve the so-called Bangsamoro problem.

"After all, we cannot have two ARMMs. We should take a look at the area being considered in this negotiation. Of course, we have to go back to (Republic Act No.) 9054 and our constitutional process," Ermita said.

Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao

JOANNA LOS BAÑOS/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

MOTORISTS in Legazpi City brave the flooded Rizal Street in Legazpi City following intermittent rains since Sunday.

Evacuation urged as new storm nears

CEBU CITY—OFFICIALS asked people living along rivers and in landslide-prone areas to move out as a low-pressure area became a storm yesterday.

Signal No. 1 was hoisted over Cebu, Bohol, Negros provinces, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Iloilo, Leyte provinces, Dinagat Island, Western Samar, Eastern Samar, Biliran Island, and Surigao del Norte.

Oscar Tabada, chief of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration in Mactan, said tropical depression "Lando" was expected to slam into Cebu last night.

As of noon yesterday, Lando was estimated at 30 kilometers east-southeast of Surigao City.

It had maximum winds of 55 km per hour near the center and was moving west-northwest at a speed of 13 kph.

On Tuesday morning, Lando is expected to be 60 km west of Cebu City, 230 km west northwest of Iloilo City by Wednesday morning, and 220 km northwest of Puerto Princesa City by Thursday.

Tabada urged people residing along riverbanks and landslide-prone areas to evacuate.

In Iligan, officials suspended classes in private and public schools as a result of flooding in most of the city's low-lying areas.

Mayor Lawrence Lluch Cruz said the flooding was caused by the swelling of the Tubod and Mandulog rivers.

Armando Edroso, team leader of the disaster coordinating center, said mudflow blocked portions of Barangay San Roque.

On Sunday night, Cruz called on residents near river banks to evacuate to higher grounds.

Francisco Barredo, city social welfare officer, said at least 200 families were displaced by floods in Zamboanga City.

In Bicol, officials said heavy rains brought landslides to Albay and Catanduanes.

In Catanduanes, landslides occurred in Barangay Balongbong in Bato town and rock slides between Barangays Banog Banog and Asqad in San Andres town, the Office of Civil Defense reported.

The Mines and Geosciences Bureau has identified Catanduanes as most prone to landslides among the Bicol provinces.

Landslides in Barangay Mataas in Cagraray Island, Bacacay, Albay, blocked a river channel, causing water to overflow to residential areas.

It prompted the evacuation of residents, said Cedric Daep, executive officer of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council.

Another landslide was reported in Manito town in Albay, said Daep in a mobile phone interview.

Gov. Joey Salceda suspended classes in all levels Monday.

Daep said traces of new volcanic debris were seen in Barangay Maipon, Guinobatan, where hundreds of people died when lahar and debris from Mayon volcano were washed down by heavy rains at the height of Supertyphoon "Reming."

Richel V. Umel and Julie S. Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao; Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas; and Ephraim Aguilar and Jaymee Gamil, Inquirer Southern Luzon

WWII mass rape victims now ill

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CANDABA, PAMPANGA—Lola (grandmother) Lasya, Tarsing, Lucing, Saryong, Toreng, Meren, Ester, Hening, Kika, Maria, Patring, Ana.

By the time Isabelita Vinuya was finished with her counting—slowed down by faltering memory—her tally of ailing women stopped at 30.

"*Nakaratay na sila* (They're bedridden now)," Vinuya, 73, said on Saturday of the survivors of mass rape by Japanese soldiers.

The soldiers belonged to the Geki Group of the 14th District Army under Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita, according to archival documents submitted to the Women's International War Crimes Tribunal in Tokyo, Japan, on Dec. 8-12, 2000.

The abuse happened after soldiers attacked Mapanique, a suspected bailiwick of the Filipino rebel army, the Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon, on Nov. 23, 1944.

In terms not stated in Operations Order A-46, the soldiers pillaged and burned the village, killed all men and boys whose corpses were thrown into a common grave that was set on fire in full view of their grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters and daughters.

The soldiers herded the women and the girls to their garrison, the Ilusurio Mansion (also called the Bahay na Pula), in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, more than a kilometer south of Mapanique.

The 96 survivors, who first broke their silence about this World War II's dark and secret past in August 1996, related the ordeal in a song they composed as a group.

THIS grave, where the burnt remains of more than 100 men and boys were transferred in 2004, is a mute witness to the pillage and burning of Mapanique in Candaba, Pampanga, and the massacre of men and boys there on Nov. 23, 1944, and the succeeding mass rape of women by Japanese soldiers.

TONETTE T. OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

With 34 women dead in the past decade and 30 more ill by now, the women—called the Malaya Lola (Free Grandmothers)—have only 32 women to continue their quest for justice, Vinuya said.

Most are afflicted with diabetes, tuberculosis, asthma and arthritis that go mostly untreated, except for times when contributions come.

A Japanese student, known here as Chesko, brought an acupuncturist before she left in August for a research on comfort women in South Korea.

Tarcila Sampang and Ana Alonzo, who are among those who never married, are cared for by relatives and still healthy among the Malaya Lola.

Those who still try to eke out a living by farming saw newly planted palay ruined by Friday's flash floods in the village. "*Wala, sira lahat ang isinabog* (The seeds are gone, all damaged)," said Vinuya.

What went down the drain amounted to P4,800 a hectare. A sack of certified palay cost P800 and every hectare needed at least six sacks of seeds.

On Saturday, Gov. Eddie Panlilio sent his office's social services coordinator to help the Malaya Lola assess their needs.

Medical missions and food assistance have been planned this December. The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. policies of the 62 survivors are being processed for renewal.

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DEPARTMENT STORE SUPERMARKET

DA rejects request to back ban on GMOs

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture has refused the request of Negros Occidental Gov. Joseph Marañon for support for a provincial board resolution banning genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the province.

The refusal was contained in a letter sent recently to Marañon, said Patrick Belisario, executive director of the Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development Foundation Inc.

Agriculture Undersecretary Bernie Fondevilla, in his letter to Marañon, explained that the DA could not ban genetically modified products that have been approved and declared safe, Belisario said in an interview on Monday.

The banning of GMOs runs counter to the national policy of promoting safe and responsible use of modern biotechnology, Fondevilla had said.

Marañon is seeking the active participation and support of the DA in imposing the ban on the entry, importation, growing, planting, selling and trading of genetically modified plants and animals in Negros Occidental.

A provincial board resolution bans the entry of living GMOs, as well as experimentation and field-testing related to it.

It also bans the planting, growing, selling or trading of living GMOs, which are believed to be toxic to humans and animals.

The resolution was in line with Negros Occidental's plan to become the country's first organic food island.

While the DA respects the province's decision to ban GMOs, Fondevilla said the agency could not go against the national policy set by President Macapagal-Arroyo in July 2001.

STUDENTS of the Pagsanjan Central School seem eager to see former President Joseph Estrada. They say they were required by their teachers to welcome Estrada and wear uniforms even if Estrada's visit fell on a Saturday. NIÑA CATHERINE CALLEJA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Estrada trains guns on FVR at Laguna sortie

BIÑAN, LAGUNA—CONVICTED PLUNDERer Joseph Estrada declared that he was ready to be jailed if the government and the Sandiganbayan insisted on seizing his assets.

In his first visit to his home province since he was ousted in a popular uprising in 2001, Estrada lambasted the administration and his political foes, particularly his predecessor, former President Fidel Ramos.

"This administration has always been intimidating me. Now, they are again threatening me with imprisonment because I am opposing the plan of the Sandiganbayan to take away my properties. Well, I'm not afraid of them," Estrada told a crowd of about 3,000 people who gathered at the town plaza.

No names

Although he let out his disgust over how the government and the court handled his plunder case, the movie actor-turned-president did not mention the name of President Macapagal-Arroyo even once in his 18-minute speech.

"I know I couldn't expect justice from this administration," he said.

Estrada said he would not surrender pieces of his property that he acquired before he entered politics as mayor of San Juan in the 1970s.

"I acquired them from my work as an actor. While others became rich only after they became congressmen, Comelec (Commission on Elections) commissioner or senator, I owned my house in (San Juan) and my rest house in Tanay even before I became mayor. I didn't steal it," he said.

Wearing his signature denim jacket and white wristband with the emblem of the "President of the Republic of the Philippines" printed on it, Estrada repeatedly professed innocence of plunder.

Connivance

He said his ouster and conviction were part of a plot by "those in power now" and "rich businessmen and some (Catholic) bishops and members of the military."

He blamed the media for allegedly being an instrument of the "rich" to oust him from power.

While Estrada was careful in directly attacking Ms Arroyo, he openly criticized Ramos, who questioned Ms Arroyo's pardon to Estrada.

Estrada said he would divulge irregularities in government contracts during the Ramos administration "in the coming days."

When reporters asked him during a brief news conference what he was referring to, he just answered: "Something explosive."

He went on to mention the controversial government projects that the Ramos administration entered into like the P8-billion Centennial Expo Park in Clark Field, Pampanga; the questionable sale of government corporations such as Petron and Alabang Stock Farms; and the awarding of contracts to 20 independent power producers.

PEA Amari

Estrada likewise mentioned the anomalous PEA-Amari land deal which he described as the "grandmother of all scams."

But, he said, the most contentious project of the Ramos administration was the sale of hundreds of hectares of prime lots within the Fort Bonifacio military reservation.

Estrada, who was then vice president, said that while Ramos boasted that the funds generated from the transaction would finance the military modernization program, the money was diverted to the general fund of the government. *Marlon Ramos and Niña Catherine Calleja, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Doctor faces civil case filed by Mendez family

By Tina G. Santos

THE FAMILY OF SUSPECTED hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez has filed a civil case against Dr. Francisco Cruz who brought the 21-year-old University of the Philippines student to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center last August where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Mendez's mother, Cristina and his younger brother, Renz, are asking for P8 million in moral and exemplary damages, P140,000 in compensatory damages, attorney's fees and litigation expenses.

Apart from Cruz, also charged with quasi-delict in the Quezon City Regional Trial Court were Cruz's wife, Myrna and his son, Miguel Francisco or "Mico," who is believed to have taken Mendez to the Cruzes' house in Project 8, Quezon City before his father rushed the victim to the VMMC.

The Legal Dictionary website defines quasi-delict as "an act whereby a person, without malice, but by fault, negligence or imprudence not legally excusable, causes injury to another."

According to the complaint filed by the Mendezes on Oct. 22, Cruz's wife was implicated in the civil case "only to bind their marital properties in case favorable judgment is secured by the plaintiffs after the trial."

Lawyer Joselito Oliveros, counsel for the complainants, said the case was "not about Cris' wrongful death."

"It is merely based on what the principal defendants, acting in concert, did and did not do after Cris died and the damages that the plaintiffs suffered because of them," he explained.

According to him, his clients were not immediately informed by the respondents about Mendez's death.

"They received information about his death around 11:45 p.m. of Aug. 27, or almost 23 hours after Cris was pronounced dead on arrival at the VMMC," he said.

"The respondents immediately caused the release of Mendez's body from the VMMC, after preventing its autopsy there, and had it brought to the funeral parlor (St. Peter Memorial Chapel) which they themselves chose and where they also had the body immediately embalmed. All these without the knowledge and permission of my clients," the lawyer added.

He said that when Mendez's family arrived at the funeral parlor at around 6 a.m. on Aug. 28, they saw Mendez's body completely naked and embalmed. He said Mendez's personal belongings, including his wallet, cell phone and even the clothes he was wearing, among other things, were gone.

"Apart from their sentimental value, these may contain valuable information that could help in the ongoing investigation concerning the victim's death," Oliveros said. "Plaintiffs place responsibility for the loss of these items on defendants' shoulders because they were also the ones who had the actual physical custody of Cris before, during and after his death."

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT
Unicyclists (from left) Noriel Himarangan, Manny Jil Vidal and Ranil Labador hone their balancing skills by practicing on top of the seawall near a Pasay City mall. The three are preparing for the national extreme unicycling contest in Iloilo City.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Manila police official, colleague accused of theft

Slain Comelec officer's kin say victim's cash missing

By Tina G. Santos

THE POLICE OFFICIAL IN charge of the case of slain Commission on Elections law department chief Alioden Dalaig is now the subject of an investigation.

Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales, Manila Police District director, yesterday ordered the relief of Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, head of the MPD homicide division, after Dalaig's family claimed that part of the money recovered from the victim was missing.

They also accused the police of taking the victim's bracelet.

Also relieved was SPO4 Benito Cabatbat, one of the case investigators.

"We have to determine the truth of the matter," Rosales told the INQUIRER. "I relieved him (Yanquiling) from his post pending an investigation. We cannot tolerate this alleged wrongdoing."

Yanquiling will be replaced by Chief Insp. Dominador Arevalo as officer in charge, Rosales said.

Dalaig's family claimed that the items recovered by the police from the victim, particularly the bracelet he was wearing on the night he was killed, had been replaced by a fake.

They also complained that of the P300,000 in cash the police recovered from Dalaig, P7,000 was missing.

But Yanquiling denied the allegations. "What we gave the family were the same items which the Ospital ng Maynila turned over to us," he explained.

"It seems that the Comelec is more interested in filing cases against the police than catching the suspect. They are afraid of the truth because Dalaig died allegedly because of talk about corruption, and this could boomerang on them," Yanquiling added in a text message to the INQUIRER.

Dalaig was taken to the hospital after he was shot dead by an unknown assailant on Nov. 10 near the corner of M. H. del Pilar and Pedro Gil Streets in Ermita, Manila.

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DID YOU KNOW

NATIONAL Artist for Visual Arts Arturo Luz was born in November 1926 in Manila. The painter and sculptor is a graduate of the University of Santo Tomas, the California College of Arts and Crafts, the Brooklyn Museum Art School in New York and the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris.

Luz was named National Artist in 1997. His works include sculptures displayed at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Philippine International Convention Center, and the floor design of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Where lies judges' loyalty?

INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVernment Secretary Ronaldo Puno has been caught lying about the source of the money distributed to congressmen and local officials in Malacañang.

Puno is the most powerful Cabinet member since he supervises the Philippine National Police and controls provincial, city and municipal governments.

So, what does that make of the administration of President Gloria concerning the cases of disappearances and murders of leftists and journalists?

There is logic in the premise that if one can lie on one issue, he can lie on other, more important issues.

There could be basis in the suspicion that the Macapagal-Arroyo government is behind the disappearances and murders of leftists and journalists.

A denial by the administration doesn't amount to anything much. Very few criminals ever admitted their guilt.

* * *

Chief Justice Reynato Puno has condemned the apparent apathy of the government in solving the killing of journalists and the slow resolution of the cases.

He says that of the 33 journalists who have been killed since 2003, only one case has been resolved.

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

Because of the role journalists play in the fight for truth and justice, Puno notes, people who kill them should be arrested and be given a speedy trial.

The Chief Justice forgets that most of the suspects in the killing of journalists are either cops or military men whose Commander in Chief is President Gloria.

The courts are useless in trying the suspects in the killings since the loyalty of most judges lies not in the Supreme Court but in Malacañang which has the power to appoint them to higher courts like the Court of Appeals or the Sandiganbayan.

I remember the time when the judges who handled the libel cases filed by First Gentleman Mike Arroyo against me and the INQUIRER editors were unusually fast in setting the dates of our arraignment, when there were more urgent cases to attend to.

Why?

Because most probably, they wanted to please the President's husband.

* * *

Who says Environment Secretary Lito Atienza has no love for the environment?

Atienza has suspended the permit issued by his predecessor to a big firm to resume logging in more than 50,000 hectares in Samar province.

Atienza issued the suspension of the logging permit after learning about it from an INQUIRER story.

In this time of the global warming, the former Manila mayor said, every tree should be spared to reverse the worldwide greenhouse effect.

Suspected illegal drugs dealer nabbed

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 37-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS ARRESTED over the weekend for allegedly selling 93 ecstasy tablets to an undercover policeman.

The suspect, Geoffrey Tiu Lim, a resident of Barangay Sta. Lucia in San Juan City, was arrested at 6 a.m. Sunday in front of a bar on Tomas Morato Street, Barangay Sacred Heart, Kamuning in Quezon City.

A report from the Quezon City Police District Galas Station 11 said that one of their men earlier contacted Lim about buying P200,000 worth of ecstasy pills. The suspect then set the date, time and place for carrying out the transaction.

When Lim turned up in front of the bar last Sunday, he gave the drugs to the undercover policeman and was subsequently arrested by police. Lim will be charged with violating Republic Act 9165 or the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Ecstasy, which is the common name for Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), is also called "X-TC", "Adam", "Eden Tablet," "the yuppie drug" or "the hug drug," based on the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency website.

Information on the site also revealed that "ecstasy is the term used for a group of 'designer' drugs closely related in chemical form to the amphetamine family of illicit drugs."

"MDMA," it added, "was first developed as an appetite suppressant in 1914 by the German company, Merck. In the 1970s, US therapists, led by biochemist Alexander Shulgin, used the drug to help patients 'explore' their feelings."

Metro police, military form joint patrol team

By Julie M. Aurelio

POLICE AND MILITARY TEAMS in Metro Manila would be conducting joint foot patrol duty as part of the campaign against criminals and terrorists.

Officials of the National Capital Region Police Office and the Armed Forces of the Philippines' NCR Command yesterday signed the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of its joint security operations.

NCRPO chief Director Geary Barias expressed confidence that the partnership between Metro policemen and the NCRCom would greatly improve the anticrime campaign.

"We hope this will strengthen the internal security and the antiterror and anticriminality campaigns as we work hand in hand with our partners in the AFP," Barias told reporters.

He added that the presence of soldiers would help deter criminality in the metropolis.

The NCRCom and the NCRPO signed the memorandum of agreement on the IRR last Aug. 28, spelling out the role of police and soldiers in keeping the peace, said NCRCom chief, Maj. Gen. Fernando Mesa.

Mesa added that soldiers would also help the police in their visibility patrols and in securing the stations at mass railway transport systems, hotels and other commercial establishments in Metro Manila.

"This joint cooperation effort means we are strengthening the ties between the police and the Armed Forces to keep Metro Manila safe and sound," the NCRCom chief said.

He cited the immediate response of soldiers stationed at Payatas, Quezon City when a bomb exploded at the Batasan complex on Nov. 13.

"Our unit from Payatas was there to guard the blast site and to cordon it off from people who shouldn't be there. Now, when people see soldiers in uniform, somehow they feel more secure," Mesa added.

Motor bikers rob trader of foreign money

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A BATAAN-BASED BUSINESSMAN LOST foreign currencies worth P3 million to motorcycle-riding robbers yesterday morning in Quezon City.

Antonio Vicente Reyes, owner of the Immaculate Money Changer shop in Balanga, Bataan told police that he was driving his car when two men on board a Kawasaki motorcycle (NX 7132) fired at him at 8:45 a.m. on A. Bonifacio Avenue near the boundary of the cities of Caloocan and Quezon.

Reyes said he was on his way to Makati from Bataan when the incident happened. As he reached A. Bonifacio Avenue, he said he heard two gunshots, not realizing that his left front tire had been hit.

Two men then alighted from a motorcycle. One aimed a gun at him and ordered him to open the car door, while the other broke the window on the passenger's side and took out a black bag under the seat.

The bag contained different foreign currencies worth P3 million. The two suspects then fled on board their motorcycle. Police said they were looking at the possibility that the incident was an inside job.

PO3 Renato Santos Jr. said Reyes told him that he noticed a green Nissan Urvan following him on the southbound lane of the North Luzon Expressway. The van sped off in another direction when it reached Cloverleaf Road in Balintawak.

"Reyes did not immediately notice that a motorcycle with two men on board had been tailing him," Santos said.

METROBRIEFS

Victim of a heart attack?

A 63-YEAR-OLD security guard yesterday found his younger colleague dead of an apparent heart attack inside the backroom of the bank where they worked. Rolando de Leon, who had been assigned to the Banco de Oro Financial Services Inc. office in Farmer's Plaza, Cubao, Quezon City, said he found his companion, Joseph Raymundo, 29, at around 7 a.m. yesterday, lying on his side., already dead. PO2 Edwin de la Cruz of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said De Leon told him that the victim was last seen alive between 12 a.m. and 1 a.m. when he reported to the bank for duty. Scene of the Crime Operatives said they found no external injury in the victim's body, leading them to believe that he couldhave died of a heart attack.

Jeannette I. Andrade

Fatal fall

A 25-YEAR-OLD security guard fell to his death when he entered an empty elevator shaft in a building in Pasig City on Sunday morning. The police's report identified the guard as Michael Rosero. The victim worked for Shooters Security Services. According to the initial investigation conducted by police, Rosero's body was found by a colleague, Winnie Bingan, at the basement of the City Estate Building in Barangay Oranbo, Pasig City at 6:45 a.m. yesterday.

Kristine L. Alave

ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Brgy. Cauayan, Pototan, Iloilo, Philippines
Tel. No. 529-8668 / 529-8063 / 529-8064
E-mail: ileco2@skyinet.net

INVITATION TO BID

The **ILOILO II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (ILECO II)** with office address at Brgy. Cau-ayan, Pototan, Iloilo, is inviting eligible bidders to participate in a Public Bidding of electrical materials scheduled on November 28, 2007, 1:30 p.m. at the ILECO II Board Room of the same address.

Interested accredited bidders of ILECO II can pick-up bidding documents at the said office. For more information, you may get in touch with the PBAC Secretariat, Ms. Bebeth Zarandin at Telefax No. (033) 529-8981, PBAC Chairman Fernando Lasafin at Celfone No. 0920-918-0339 or TSD Manager, Engr. Jose Redmond Roquios at 0918-902-3703.

(Sgd.) **RAMON P. APURA, SR.**
General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 20, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. 442-5338

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **MS. JOCELYN S. GACO**, General Manager, **HANBI CONSTRUCTION and DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**, has filed with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of residential condominium units at **HANBI MANSIONS** (A Condominium project) located at Res. Sec. 'D,' Gibraltar Road corner Julian Felipe Street, Lualhati Barangay, Baguio City covered by Lot No. 18, RS-380-D/ Transfer Certificate of Title No. T-50153 registered in the name of **PINE RIDGE PROPERTY BUILDERS, INCORPORATION**; and that the registration statement and all papers attached thereto are available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon; and that upon proper application, copies thereof shall be furnished to such person upon payment of the proper fee.

Any person with valid objection in the registration of the project may file his/her objection in writing with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City, not later than two (2) weeks from the completion of the publication.

City of Baguio, Philippines, 18th day of October 2007.

(Sgd.) **REBECCA F. TORRES**
Regional Officer

(PDI–Nov. 13 & 20, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Cordillera Administrative Region
Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. 442-5338

PAUNAWA

Ipinauunawa na si **JOCELYN S. GACO**, Tagapangasiwa ng **HANBI CONSTRUCTION and DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** ay nagharap sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board ng isang panunumpang nakatala para sa bilihan ng mga 'Residential Condominium Units' sa **HANBI MANSIONS (A CONDOMINIUM)** na matatagpuan sa Res. Sec. "D," Gibraltar Road corner Julian Felipe Street, Lualhati Barangay, Baguio City at sinasakop ng Lot No. 18, RS-380-D/T-50153 sa pangalan ng **PINE RIDGE PROPERTY BUILDERS, INC.**; na ang nakatalang pahayag at ang lahat ng kasulatang nilalaman doon ay nakahanda sa pagsusuri ng sinumang tao na nagtataglay ng legal na interes na naaayon sa batas pagkaraan ng wastong aplikasyon; at ang mga kasulatan ay ibibigay sa nabanggit na tao pagkatapos ng kaukulang bayad.

Sinumang tao na may kapani-paniwalang pagtutol sa pagkatala ng proyekto ay maaaring magbigay ng nilagdaang pagtutol sa Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, Botanical Garden, Leonard Wood Road, Baguio City, nang hindi hihigit sa loob ng dalawang (2) linggo mula sa pagkalathala.

Lungsod ng Baguio, Pilipinas, ika-18 araw ng Oktubre 2007.

(Sgd.) **REBECCA F. TORRES**
Regional Officer

(PDI–Nov. 13 & 20, 2007)

A large international NGO managing multi million dollars budget for development projects benefiting poor communities at the countryside is in need of an Executive Assistant (EA) to the Country Director (CD).

The Job

The EA will provide support to the CD in his overall strategic leadership, organizational management and development, representation and external relations work. Specifically, the EA will:

- Liaise with embassies, government offices and other bodies to share systems and expectations to ensure effective coordination.
- Prepare briefings, memoranda and responds to informational requests.
- Maintain CD's calendar, meetings, handle mails and all travel requirements.
- Maintain executive files including correspondences, documents and database and ensure easy retrieval.
- Assist in internal and external meetings and handles related follow-up work.

Core Requirements

- University degree with at least 5 years work experience in an international organization assisting top management post
- Analytical and attentive to details
- Excellent interpersonal skills including ability to conduct face to face and telephone conversation
- Technically savvy
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

Personal Attributes

Post holder must be well organized, proactive and takes initiative in providing support. Uses diplomacy, good judgment and discretion as appropriate. Must be able to work with less supervision and collaboratively as part of a team. Able to work under pressure and meet tight schedules in a difficult multi-cultural environment.

Vacancy Contact

Email your latest CV with letter cover indicating the reason/s for applying and the competencies possessed matching the job requirements to **hrd_makati@yahoo.com** not later than 12:00 noon of November 23, 2007.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
PhilHealth Regional Office III
PhilHealth Bldg., Lazatin Blvd., San Agustin, City of San Fernando
Healthline (045) 963-71-48 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No. III-07-008

PhilHealth Regional Office III (PRO III), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites all duly registered suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	: Procurement of Generator for PRO III
Location	: PhilHealth Bldg. Lazatin Blvd., City of San Fernando
Brief Description	: Diesel Generator with a 250 KVA Capacity
Approved Budget for the Contract	: Php 2,000,000.00
Delivery Period	: Within 90 days after issuance of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 16 to 29, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	November 29, 2007 at 1:30 PM
3. Opening of Bids	December 13, 2007 at 1:30 PM
4 Bid Evaluation	In accordance with the provisions of RA 9184
5. Post-Qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,000.00 to the Cashier of PRO III.

(Sgd.) **PRISCILLA G. ASUNCION**
Chairperson, PRO III Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–November 20 & 26, 2007)

Good Education, the Expat Pinoys' Most Precious Gift

Ma. Trinia Asuncion considers their family's circumstance as far from ideal - with her father needing to go abroad to be able to provide for them. But Trinia chose to rise above this circumstance by "Using it to inspire me and strive through life". To succeed and probably cut the chain of goodbyes when "I will not have to leave this country to (fend) for my own family".

Trinia is the daughter of Andres Asuncion, an oil refinery control operator in Oman. She is a grade school valedictorian, high school valedictorian and a college scholar at the UP Intarmed College of Medicine.

She is one of the awardees in BPI's Search for 10 Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children for 2007.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands has been exceptionally active in reaching out to our kababayans abroad in the last five years and has in the process been immersed in the stories of success and failures of Filipinos working abroad. It is not uncommon to find sad stories of shattered dreams and uncertain futures. But there are beautiful stories of little triumphs and victories won. The sweetest of which are those that involve the very reason for their struggles away from home - their children and their families.

The Search represents the Bank's commitment to promoting the value of education, culture of excellence, and nationalistic pride among our *Expat Pinoy* children, helping them realize the magnitude of their parents' contribution to the country, but more importantly, to their future.

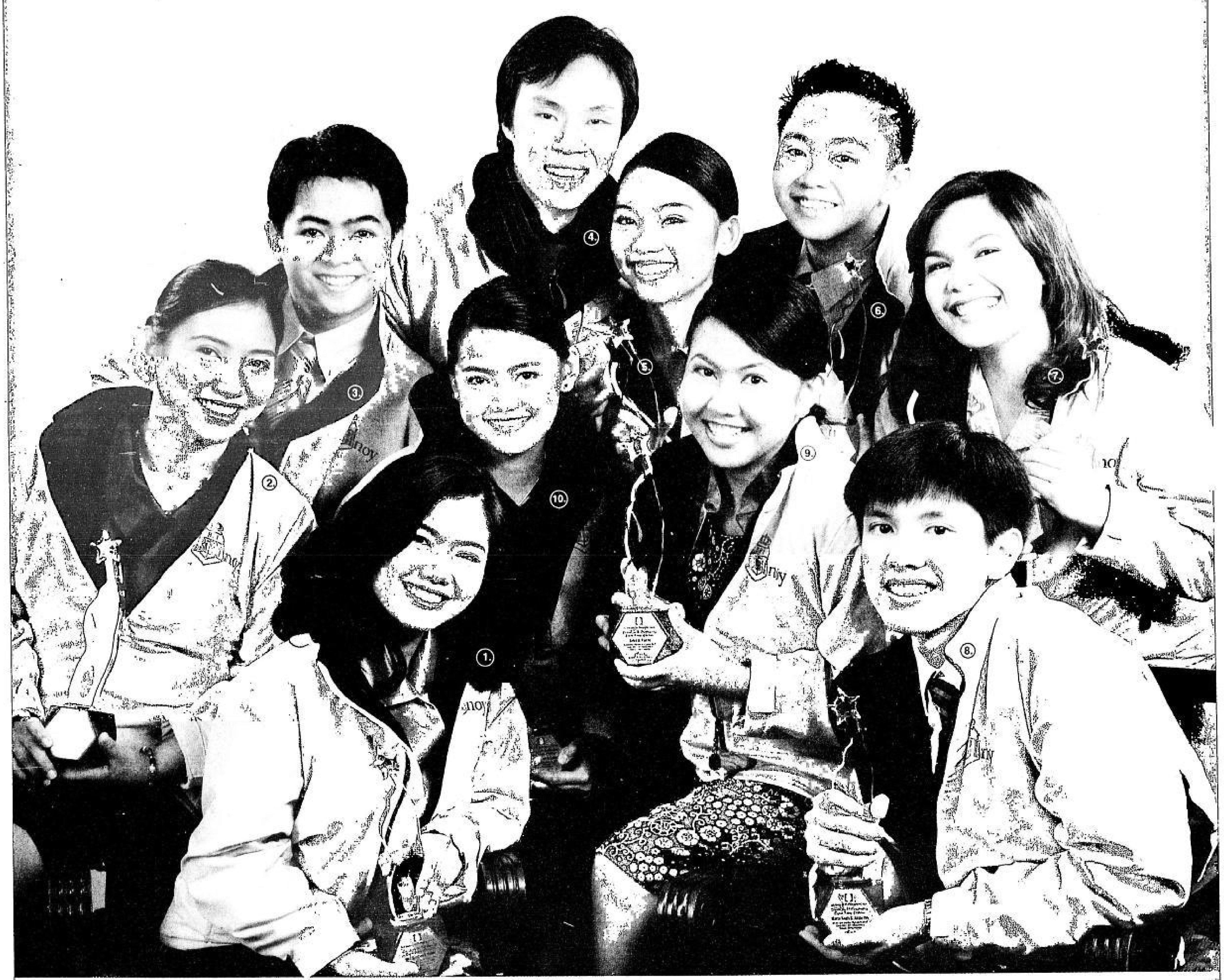
With this, BPI aims to inspire these children to achieve their dreams, which are the driving force of their parents' toils and endless diligence abroad. Inspiringly, the *Expat Pinoys* find their validation as good parents when they see their children excel and be honored in a prestigious contest.

All these kids are proudly excellent students, class valedictorians, dean's listers, academic achievers and consistent honor students. But more significant than the school records that they have set for themselves is how they believe in their hearts that the best contribution they could give this country and the parent working abroad is to take their studies seriously.

Good education, they agree, is their most potent weapon in battling though this life successfully. Thankfully, each of these kids realize that their good education is a product of their parents' hard work abroad, and perhaps the most precious gift they can ever receive from them.

On the whole, the Search also seeks to bring to the forefront of public consciousness the value to the community of the *Expat Pinoys* and their families, and the extent to which BPI can demonstrate its deep appreciation for their sacrifices. Same reason why BPI is today's No.1 Bank in OFW Remittances.

Outstanding Children
Proud Expat Pinoy Parents



These outstanding children have brought honor to their parents. A great reward for all the sacrifices their parents have made abroad. The fulfillment of the Expat Pinoys' dream of seeing their children happy and successful. BPI shares this joy and salutes the Expat Pinoy parents and their outstanding children.

Congratulations to BPI's 10 Most Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children!

BPI We'll take you farther.

Be quick. Be reliable. BPI.

Name • School (Parent •Country of assignment) 1. Maria Trinia S. Asuncion UP Manila College of Medicine (Andres E. Asuncion OMAN) **2.Soleil C. Ponce** Adamson University (Manuel I. Ponce KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA) **3.Neil Stephen A. Lopez** De La Salle University (Noel C. Lopez INDONESIA) **4.Inri I. Villaluna** University of the Philippines in the Visayas (Danilo L. Villaluna JAPAN) **5.Mary Grace E. Pascua** Makati Science High School (Jesus E. Pascua SAUDI ARABIA) **6.Mark Lester B. Cervantes** University of Perpetual Help System-DALTA (Rico Mercurio Cervantes DUBAI, UAE) **7.Loris Marriel B. Villar** Ateneo de Manila University (Ismael J. Villar DUBAI, UAE) **8.Jonathan B. Bantigue** Philippine Science High School (Vivencio M. Bantigue RUSSIA) **9.Maria Rhodora N. Agang** Far Eastern University (Rodrigo G. Agang SUDAN, SOUTH AFRICA) **10.Kristine Anne A. Lopez** Ateneo de Manila University (Noel C. Lopez, INDONESIA)

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bangladesh cyclone toll nears 3,000

DHAKA—FOUR DAYS AFTER SUPER CYCLONE Sidr killed more than 2,400 people in Bangladesh, rescuers were struggling to reach isolated areas along the country's devastated coast and give aid to millions of survivors.

"The tragedy unfolds as we walk through one after another devastated village," said relief operator Mohammad Selim in Bagerhat, one of the worst-hit areas. "Often it looks like we are in a valley of death."

Media reports and the chair of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, Mohammad Abdur Rob, said the death toll had already surpassed 3,000, and was likely to go up. The government put the official toll at 2,471 confirmed dead.

"We are trying to reach all the affected areas on the vast coastline as soon as possible, when we will know how many people have exactly died in the devastation," one government official said.

While it will take several days to determine the number of dead and missing, some three million survivors, who were either evacuated from the low-lying southern coast or whose homes and villages were destroyed, will need support, the government said.

Aid workers fear inadequate supplies of food, drinking water and medicine could lead to outbreaks of disease.

Grieving families begged for clothes to wrap around the bodies of dead relatives for burial. In some areas, they put corpses in mass graves.

Reuters reporters in the affected districts said bodies were being discovered by the hour in the rivers and paddy fields and under piles of debris.

Cyclone Sidr smashed into the coast of southern Bangladesh late on Thursday with 250 kph winds that whipped up a five-meter tidal surge.

In its wake, dead people and animals floated down rivers and the stench of death filled the air. Relatives tried to identify and bring them ashore, before burying them hurriedly without proper ceremonies.

Military ships and helicopters were trying to reach thousands of people believed stranded on islands in the Bay of Bengal and in coastal areas still cut off by the devastating storm.

Officials in affected areas say the death toll given by the ministry is far below the real numbers. Aid agencies have said the toll could rise beyond 10,000.

"Some 2,000 people have died in my area alone," said Anwar Panchayet in Bagerhat district.

A huge effort was under way to get food, drinking water and shelter to the millions affected by the storm, the worst to hit disaster-prone Bangladesh since 1991 when nearly 143,000 people died in a cyclone and the tidal surge it triggered. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

US secretly helping Musharraf guard nukes

WASHINGTON—The United States is helping Pakistan keep its nuclear weapons secure in a top-secret program that has cost Washington almost $100 million since 2001, The New York Times reported Sunday. But Pakistan still refuses to allow US experts into its nuclear sites, the newspaper said, revealing information it first obtained three years ago but, due to a White House request, had not reported until now. Debate is intensifying here about whether Pakistan's reluctance to reveal "critical details" about its arsenal has undercut the cooperation's effectiveness, the report said. Without addressing the report's substance, White House National Security Council spokesperson Gordon Johndroe told AFP: "At this time, we believe that Pakistan's nuclear weapons and facilities are under the appropriate control of Pakistani authorities." The US program was reportedly created after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when the United States enlisted President Pervez Musharraf as the main ally in its "war on terror." Pakistan has been in turmoil since General Musharraf imposed a state of emergency two weeks ago. *AFP*

Study links drop in test scores to decline in reading

Harry Potter, James Patterson and Oprah Winfrey's book club aside, Americans—particularly young Americans—appear to be reading less for fun, and as that happens, their reading test scores are declining. At the same time, performance in other academic disciplines like math and science is dipping for students whose access to books is limited, and employers are rating workers deficient in basic writing skills. That is the message of a new report being released Monday by the National Endowment for the Arts, based on an analysis of data from about two dozen studies from the federal Education and Labor Departments and the Census Bureau, as well as other academic, foundation and business surveys. Among the findings is that although reading scores among elementary school students have been improving, scores are flat among middle school students and slightly declining among high school seniors. These trends are concurrent with a falloff in daily pleasure reading among young people as they progress from elementary to high school, a drop that appears to continue once they enter college. The data also showed that students who read for fun nearly every day performed better on reading tests than those who reported reading never or hardly at all. *NYT*

Asean leaders to confront Burma

SINGAPORE—Southeast Asian leaders Monday prepared to confront Burma (Myanmar) for the first time since the junta's crackdown on dissent, as the region faced mounting pressure to rein in its errant member state. Burma's Prime Minister Lieutenant General Thein Sein can expect a grilling in Singapore over the brutal response to mass prodemocracy protests in September, which claimed at least 15 lives and sparked global condemnation. *AFP*

Court battle rages for Nina Wang's billions

HONG KONG—ONE OF ASIA'S biggest fortunes, left by Nina Wang—once the continent's richest woman—will probably be handled by an administrator while her feng shui master friend and her family battle in court for the $12 billion.

The rival camps told a court on Monday they agreed in principle to an independent administrator, according to a lawyer for feng shui enthusiast and businessman Tony Chan, clearing the way for what is expected to be a heated and lengthy court case.

"It's an important and major step," Jonathan Midgley, Chan's lawyer, told Reuters.

Midgley said an estate administrator was needed to ensure Wang's assets were "preserved" and "run efficiently" during the court case.

Chan claims to be the sole beneficiary of a will drafted last year by Wang as she was dying with cancer. But the Chinachem Charitable Foundation, run primarily by Wang's family, lays claim to an earlier 2002 will.

Wang, rated Asia's richest woman, was one of Hong Kong's most colorful tycoons nicknamed "little sweetie" for her braided pigtails, miniskirts and giggly persona.

Midgley said there seemed to be agreement between the parties, including Wang's nonagenarian father-in-law Wang Din-shin, on having a court-appointed administrator to oversee the estate. But he said Wang's family needed more time to consider certain details.

"They're obliged to enter their next legal document in relation to the litigation on the 13th of December to stake this claim," Midgley said.

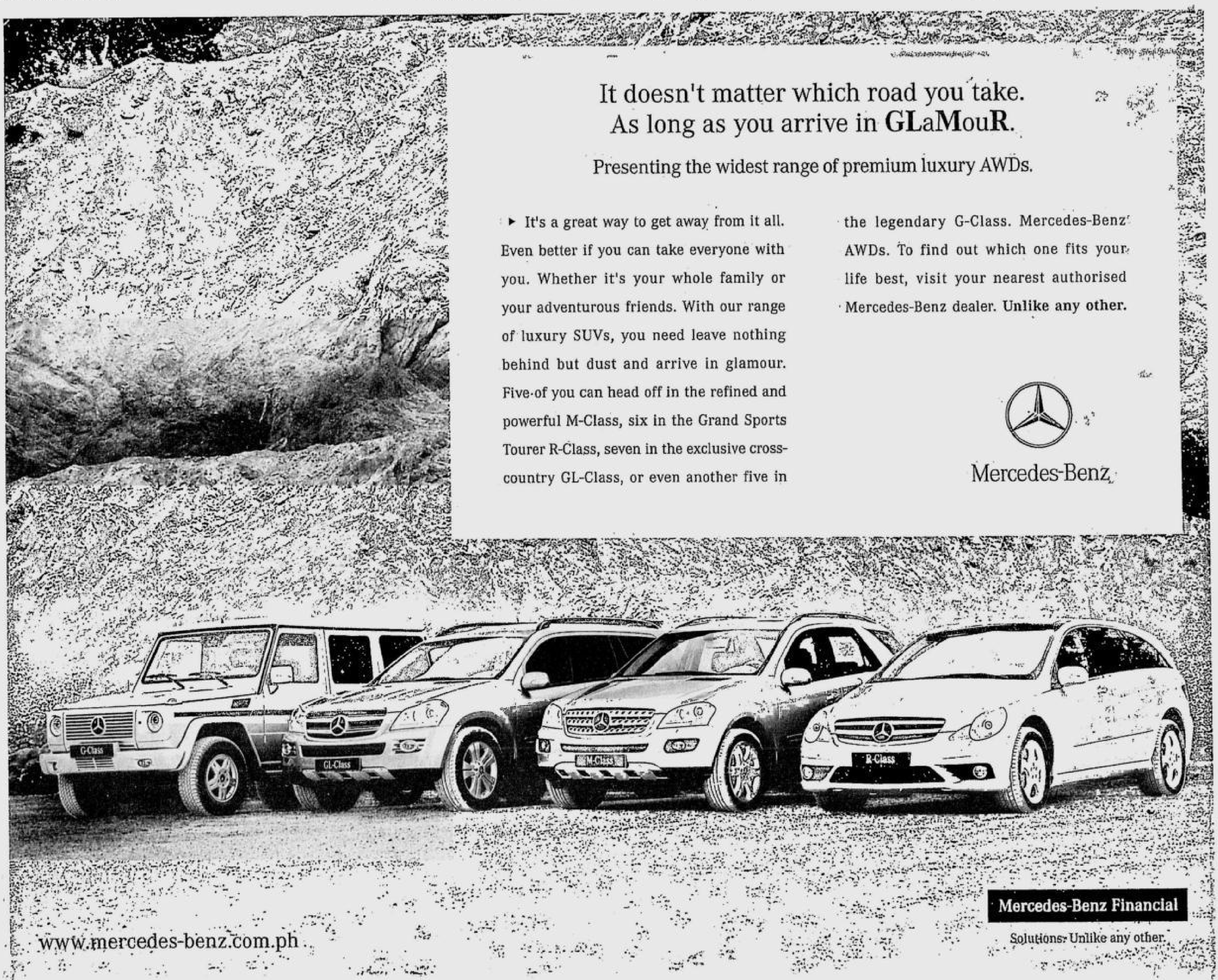
Judge Andrew Cheung adjourned the hearing until Dec. 10, when all parties will give an update on their positions.

Wang, ranked the 154th richest person in the world by Forbes magazine last year, was known for her eccentricities, including her self-professed stinginess.

Her life was touched by tragedy in 1990 when her husband Teddy Wang was abducted and never seen alive again. *Reuters*

WANG in an Oct. 17, 2005 photo

REUTERS



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▨ **Jins eye** Olympic berths anew in Asian qualifier /A26

Arum still wants 'dream fight'

Pacquiao-De La Hoya matchup sure blockbuster, says promoter

THE "DREAM FIGHT" PITTING MANNY PACQUIAO AGAINST the legendary Oscar De La Hoya is gaining steam.

PACQUIAO

DE LA HOYA

No less than Top Rank's Bob Arum himself admitted yesterday that they are talking with Dela Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions about a possible clash between the two titans of prize fighting.

"I'm not the genius who thought of that idea," said Arum in an interview on dzSR Sports Radio 918 yesterday. "But the media liked it, and when I presented it to Richard Shaeffer of Golden Boy, he liked the idea."

The fight, however, raises eyebrows because of the huge disparity in the fighting weights of the two pay-per-view lords.

De La Hoya, who held world championship belts in four weight categories, fights in the 154-pound class. He started fighting, though, as a super featherweight (130 lbs.)

Pacquiao, who started as a flyweight (112 lbs.), fought as a super featherweight when he beat Marco Antonio Barrera last Oct. 6 in Las Vegas.

This eary, pundits predict that the two fighters could meet at 147 lbs, or as welterweights.

Arum said a Pacquiao-De La Hoya fight "is not out of the question" and that the fight could give the Filipino his biggest paycheck ever.

Meanwhile, Arum said he would present two options for Pacquiao's next fight in March —one against Juan Manuel Marquez and the other against David Diaz.

Marquez is the reigning World Boxing Council super featherweight titlist, while Diaz holds the WBC lightweight crown.

Marc Anthony Reyes

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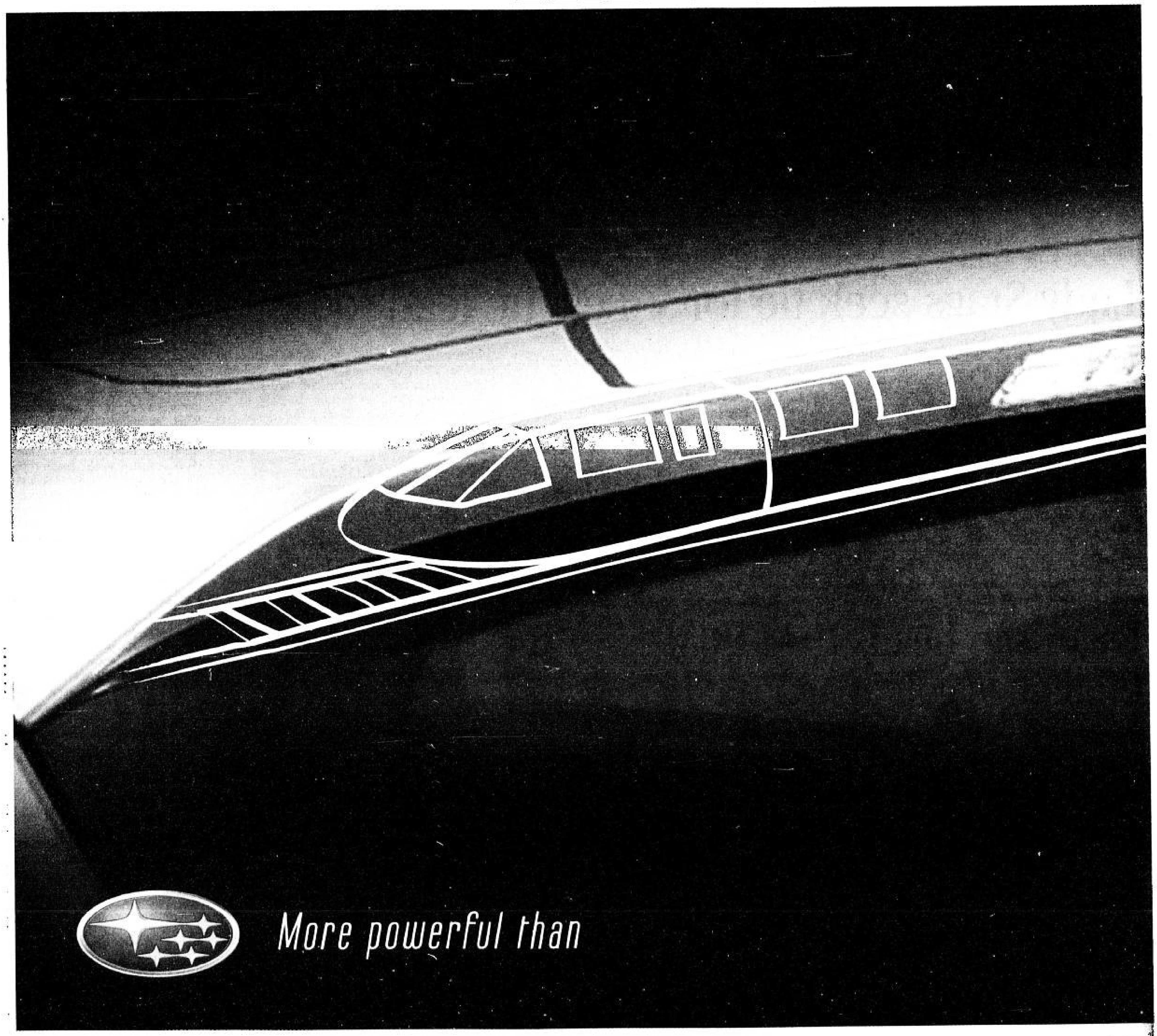

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Amazing Protectors risk clean mark vs Road Kings

FIL-AM ACE GABE NORWOOD HOPES TO sustain Hapee Toothpaste's unbeaten run against Toyota Balintawak in the PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup today at the Rizal Coliseum.

Norwood has been shuttling between practices for Hapee and the Harbour-Philippine Team since Saturday, but Hapee mentor Jun Noel believes that the celebrated Fil-Am is far from being a "burnout."

"We're not worried; I know coach Junel (Baculi) will take care of Norwood, he's a good coach," said. "And the team is very determined. They boys are really motivated, they just don't want to lose."

"It's just more basketball; I'm up to the challenge," the 6-foot-5 Norwood said.

The Complete Protectors will vie for their sixth straight win at 4 p.m. to solidify their bid for an outright semifinal berth.

Harbour Centre, running second at 5-1, also aims to boost its stock against a streaking Mail and More at 2 p.m.

Both Hapee and Harbour Centre have secured slots in Pool A, where the top three teams in the first round will fight for the two outright semifinal stint.

Toyota Balintawak and Mail and More also remain in the running for the incentive. A loss may relegate them to Pool B, the group composed of the bottom teams that will battle for the last three quarterfinal berths.

"We're going for that (Pool A slot)," said coach Allan Gregorio after the Comets rolled to their third straight win behind guards Marcy Arellano and Khiel Misa after a 0-3 start.

"Harbour doesn't need the win, we need it more. I hope they relax."

But coach Jorge Gallent believes his Batang Pier have addressed their near-meltdowns when they completely dominated San Mig Coffee, 86-63, last Saturday.

"We played 40 minutes of basketball, not like before when we played for just 30 to 38 minutes," he said. "Every win is still crucial, it can bring us to the semifinals."

The Complete Protectors have also shown more cohesiveness with Norwood, Mark Borboran, Larry Rodriguez and Reed Juntilla combining for a balanced attack recently.

But Noel expects rough sailing from the Road Kings. "They just came from a big win so I won't take them lightly. I know they are also prepared for this game," he said.

The Road Kings outclassed the Coffee Kings, 71-66, last week. *Jasmine W. Payo*

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	5	0
Harbour	5	1
Mail & More	3	3
Toyota Bal.	3	3
S Mig Coffee	2	4
Pharex	1	5
Bacchus	0	6

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Mail & More
4 p.m.—Hapee vs Toyota Balintawak

Ardina routs Orlando field by 9 strokes

ARDINA

DOTTIE ARDINA debuted in the Laura Diaz FCWT (Future Collegians World Tour) with a flourish, firing rounds of 72 and 71 to win the Eagle Creek Open by a whopping nine strokes over local bet Feng Yueer in Orlando, Florida, Sunday.

Ardina's lopsided triumph came on the heels of ICTSI teammate Mia Piccio's come-from-behind win in the World Woods Open of the Laura Diaz FCWT last month. Piccio closed out with a 70 and turned back Sally Watson of Scotland by one stroke in Brooksville, Florida.

The 13-year-old Ardina, on a golf scholarship from ICTSI at the Pendleton Academy, stamped her class early in the 36-hole tournament, gunning down four birdies in the first round and tying for most pars with 11 at the par-73 Eagle Creek Golf Club.

She began the final round with a five-stroke lead over Jessica Alexander of Riverview, Florida, who also made 11 pars in the first 18 holes. But Alexander fumbled with a 79 in the last round and dropped to joint third with Karen Chung (82-74) at 156.

Sustaining her form, Ardina shot the low round of 71 for a 143 total to seal the win in her first FCWT event.

Feng, who made a 79 in the first round, rallied with a 73 to finish second at 152.

SAN BEDA's Chico Tirona goes for a reverse drive off Francis Allera of Santo Tomas in yesterday's featured match. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Tigers knock out Red Lions; Lancers score

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Tigers and the University of the Visayas Lancers scored contrasting wins yesterday to clinch Final Four berths in the Fil-Oil/Flying V National Collegiate Champions League at The Arena in San Juan.

Showing no signs of fatigue, Philippine team mainstay Jervy Cruz fueled a fourth-quarter comeback as the Tigers eliminated the NCAA champion San Beda Red Lions, 88-84, and arranged a semifinal duel against the winner of the quarterfinal clash between Ateneo and Jose Rizal tomorrow.

The Lancers had an easier time as the Cebu-based squad took control right in the first period and roared to a 78-58 win over the University of Mindanao Wildcats in the first game.

"Our advantage was our big men; our outside shooting was also good," said coach Elmer Cabahug as his Lancers wait for the quarterfinal winner between Far Eastern U and STI.

Ritchum Dennison got the Lancers off to a 22-11 start by drilling 10 of his 16 points in the first period.

Cruz, who finished with 21 points and 15 boards, came into the game a few hours after arriving from an overnight team-building session with the Harbour-RP Team in Tagaytay.

"We didn't force him to play, but he really wanted to play," said UST coach Pido Jarencio.

Dylan Ababou came through in the clutch by firing seven of his 17 points while Japs Cuan nailed four charities in the last 36 seconds.

Cruz and Ababou combined for 13 points early in the fourth period as the Tigers wrested the lead, 78-77, after trailing at 61-70.

As the Lions continued to grope for form, Mark Canlas put the Tigers on top, 82-79, heading into the final two minutes.

The scores:

First Game

UV 78—Dennison 16, Berame 14, Luga 9, Diputado 9, Medana 8, Lanete 8, Villanil 7, Tancongco 5, Slaughter 2, Arda 0, Lao 0, Minigque 0, Pitogo 0, Sendrijas 0, Lasala 0.

UM 58—Awitin 20, Calatayud 8, Palomares 8, Calimpong 6, Angalan 6, Edulan 3, Ciceralde 3, Blanco 2, Silvarez 1, Apormeo 1, Cisneros 0, Guirigay 0.

Quarters: 22-11, 43-22, 59-43, 78-58

Second Game

UST 88—Cruz 21, Ababou 17, Allera 12, Espiritu 11, Cuan 9, Mirza 7, Canlas 6, Cortez 3, Taylor 2, Basa 0, Badua 0, Gile 0, Dizon 0.

SAN BEDA 84—Escobal 22, Hermida 21, Menor 19, Ekwe 12, Gamalinda 4, Taganas 2, Marcelo 2, Lanete 2, Maggay 0.

Quarters: 18-22, 47-42, 65-70, 88-84

Lady Stags seek tie for V-League lead today

LA SALLE'S Desiree Hernandez attacks the Ateneo defense in their Nov. 5 game. RYAN LIM

SAN SEBASTIAN IS FAVORED TO REGAIN joint leadership when it tackles also-ran Adamson while Ateneo wants to exact revenge on arch rival La Salle today in the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference at The Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Stags go up against the Lady Falcons at 3 p.m. aiming to match idle University of Santo Tomas Tigresses' 8-1 slate. More importantly, they would be on equal footing with the Tigresses for an automatic finals berth.

The Lady Stags broke the Lady Falcons' two-game winning run with a 25-20, 25-18, 25-14 victory during the elimination round last Oct. 19.

Thai import Jaroensri Bualee, team captain Laurence Ann Latigay and Rysabelle Devanadera starred in that win, combining for 43 points.

It has been an inconsistent Adamson squad that showed up from there, its title aspiration ending last Sunday with a second straight semifinal loss.

In the 5 p.m. main game, the Lady Eagles are not setting out to get back at the Lady Archers, who dealt them a 25-23, 25-19, 25-20 beating on Nov. 5. They also want to kick the defending champions out of the title race.

The Lady Archers bowed to the Tigresses last Sunday, 25-17, 25-16, 18-25, 19-25, 15-8, and now need to win all their remaining three games to avail of the 3-of-4 incentive. They will meet the Lady Falcons on Nov. 23.

Under league rules, the lower-ranked teams in the semifinals can still secure a playoff for the second finals seat if they win three of their four matches.

The Lady Eagles bounced back from a loss to the Lady Stags Sunday by beating the Lady Falcons, 27-25, 25-15, 25-22, to improve to 6-3. *Romina S. Austria*

STANDINGS	W	L
UST	8	1
SSC	7	1
Ateneo	6	3
Adamson	4	5
La Salle	3	5

GAMES TODAY
(*The Arena, San Juan*)
3 p.m.—Adamson vs San Sebastian
5 p.m.—Ateneo vs La Salle

Pagunsan heads P1M PGAP Challenge golf at Aguinaldo

By Musong R. Castillo

ASIAN TOUR STAR JUVIC PAGUNSAN LEADS a crack field seeing action in the P1 million PGAP Challenge today at the short and tight Camp Aguinaldo layout in Quezon City.

Pagunsan, the former caddy who won the recent Pertamina Indonesia President's Invitational three weeks ago, looms as the man to beat in the event put up by PGAP president Jun Bustamante.

Former RP Open winners Robert Pactolerin and Cassius Casas are the likely challengers from a field of 105 professionals chasing the P300,000 champion's prize in the 54-hole event backed by Kim Yung-ho, Kim Koo-sik and Aguinaldo GM Col. Reynaldo Ochosa.

Artemio Murakami, another Filipino who broke through in this year's Asian Tour at the Iskandar Johor Open in Malaysia, is also expected to take part. A pro-am tournament officially kicked off the event yesterday.

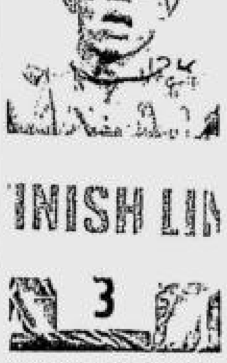
The tournament will prune the field after each round until only the top 30 professionals are left for the final day on Thursday.

Elmer Salvador, winner of two PGAP legs and runner-up to Jherome Delariarte in the TCC Invitational last February, is also entered.

Second place is worth P110,000, third P75,000 and fourth P55,000.

ARHO
TO LEAD
MARHO president and Mandaluyong Mayor Benhur Abalos (third from left) awards a replica of the Marho Breeders' Cup trophy to former jockey Antonio Jacob, representing horseowner Eduardo Gonzalez, following the victory of their entry Mr. Gee in the Smart Winner-Text-All Premium Race, part of Sunday's 12th Marho Breeders' Cup Racing Festival at Sta. Ana Park. With them are (from left) PRCI racing manager Dan Valmonte and Marho directors Elias Chua, Butch Mamon and Enrique "Jing" Javier.

Sabal's apology is all that Go wants



SABAL: Holding out

By Jasmine W. Payo

A PERSONAL APOLOGY IS ALL CRESENCIANO Sabal needs to do to reclaim his place in the national team.

And he's not keen on doing that.

A day after Sabal captured the men's crown of the 31st National Milo Marathon, the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association opened its door for the marathon king.

Sabal, along with RP teammates Eduardo Buenavista and Allan Ballester, were suspended from the national team for competing in an unsanctioned race early this year.

But while Buenavista and Ballester got a reprieve and secured slots in the Thailand Southeast Asian Games next month, the 28-year-old Sabal remained in the "freezer."

Athletics persident Go Teng Kok is willing to take Sabal back, but on one condition.

"We can reinstate him, too, if he would appear in our office and offer a personal apology," Go said. "Unlike Buenavista and Ballester, Sabal hasn't approached us."

But Sabal wants the Patafa to make the first move.

"I think it's better if they approach me, I'm just waiting for their call," he said. "I want to know if I'll still be provided with good training. If not, I'll train and compete on my own."

Sabal won Sunday's race in two hours, 22 minutes and 57 seconds and said the victory is proof that he can still be of use to the RP squad.

"If they give me a chance and provide me with good training, I'm willing to come back," he said.

SPORTSWATCH

RP five PSA Forum guests

THE RP MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM bound for the 24th Southeast Asian Games will be formally presented today at the PSA Forum at Shakey's UN Avenue branch.

PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad, head coach Junel Baculi and Mikee Romero, whose Harbour Centre is bankrolling the RP five's campaign, are also guests in the public sports program aired over Sports Radio 918 and co-sponsored by Pagcor.

Also guesting in the session are Corinna Benipayo Mojica and members of the RP bodybuilding team to the SEA Games and Imus Mayor Manny Maliksi and Imus sports council chair Shernan Jaro.

Sports ed Episcope writes 30

GILBERT EPISCOPE, SPORTS EDITOR OF Abante Tonite, died on Saturday. He was 41.

He is survived by wife Merquejames and children Rainier, Stephanie and Aivan.

Episcope started his writing career as a sports reporter for Abante, covering beats at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, the Philippine Basketball League (PBL) and the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA).

His remains are at the St. Peter Chapel in Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

5-day 'Bakbakan' finals up

FIVE MORE CHAMPIONSHIP-ROUND days spice up the NFGB National Bakbakan 10-Stag Derby which starts today at 1 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum.

Today's 90-fight 4-stag round features breeders who survived the gruelling semifinals. A participant must earn at least 4 points to enter the finals.

The final tally at the close of semifinals last week at different venues showed only 14 out of 1,463 entries with perfect scores of six wins each. They shared in the P2 million bonus prize. Fourteen other bets had 5.5 points and 121 entries had 5.

PSG Season Opener slated

WITH THE MOULTING SEASON OVER, cockers and breeders gear up for the Cock Season Opener 4-Cock Derby on Nov. 23, 28 and 30 at the Pasig Square Garden.

A total of 120 participants have listed for the derby which offers a guaranteed prize of P1.2 million. Entry fee is P7,700.

An P80,000 bonus will be divided among participants with 2 points after the eliminations on Nov. 23 and 28, said hosts George and Danny Ty and Manny Berbano.

Entries must be submitted on Thursday.

Federer plays idol Sampras across Asia

FEDERER: Reigning king AP

SEOUL—ROGER FEDERER AND Pete Sampras are without doubt two of the greatest tennis players the world has ever seen, but they only ever faced each other once.

All that will change this week when 12-time Grand Slam winner Federer plays his idol, who has 14 Grand Slams to his name, in three exhibition matches across Asia, starting in Seoul on Tuesday.

The Swiss ace should win hands-down given he is at the peak of his powers, lifting his fourth Masters Cup title on Sunday, and Sampras retired from the professional game in 2002.

But the American legend has been working hard on getting back in shape and is unbeaten in three starts on the Jim Courier Outback Champions seniors tour, his first serious tennis since hanging up his racket.

Following Seoul, Federer and Sampras move to Kuala Lumpur on Thursday before ending up in Macau on Saturday.

Tickets are selling fast, with fans relishing a rare chance to see two giants of the game on either side of the net.

Lincoln Venancio, managing director of the Hong Kong-based promoter, Entertainment Group Limited, touts the showdowns as "a real once-in-a-life time opportunity."

"Some fans are comparing this classic to the Muhammad Ali vs Joe Frazier boxing match, to Pele and Maradona playing on the same football pitch or to Van Gogh and Picasso working on the one single painting," he said.

Sampras won five US Open titles and two more at the Australian Open, but it was Wimbledon where he was unbeatable, lifting the trophy seven times.

Along with his Grand Slam success, Sampras held the world No. 1 ranking for a record 286 weeks, including a streak of 102 weeks that has now been bettered by Federer. *AFP*

SAMPRAS: Former No. 1

Chinese TV nets $11B for Olympics

BEIJING—CHINA'S STATE-OWNED BROADcaster CCTV has netted 80 billion yuan ($10.7 billion) in an auction for advertising next year when Beijing stages the Olympics, press reports said on Monday.

Sunday's auction attracted 30 percent more companies than the previous year partly because firms are keen to cash in on the Olympics, the Beijing News reported, without specifying how many made bids for advertising slots.

"When you take into account that August 2008 is the Olympic month, it turns the whole year into a bumper year for advertising," CCTV advertising chief Xia Hongbo was quoted as saying.

Income of $10.7 billion for CCTV was up almost 20 percent on the previous auction in 2006 for the current year, it added.

CCTV is China's only national broadcaster and the country's rights holder for the Aug. 8-24 Games.

During the auction, domestic and foreign firms were assigned numbers and invited to make secret bids.

Most sought-after were prime time viewing slots during the Olympic month of August, the paper said.

One of the top August slots went to China Airlines, which was willing to pay out more than $5 million for a prime time position after the main evening news bulletin. *AFP*

Pereira, Nystrand rip swim records

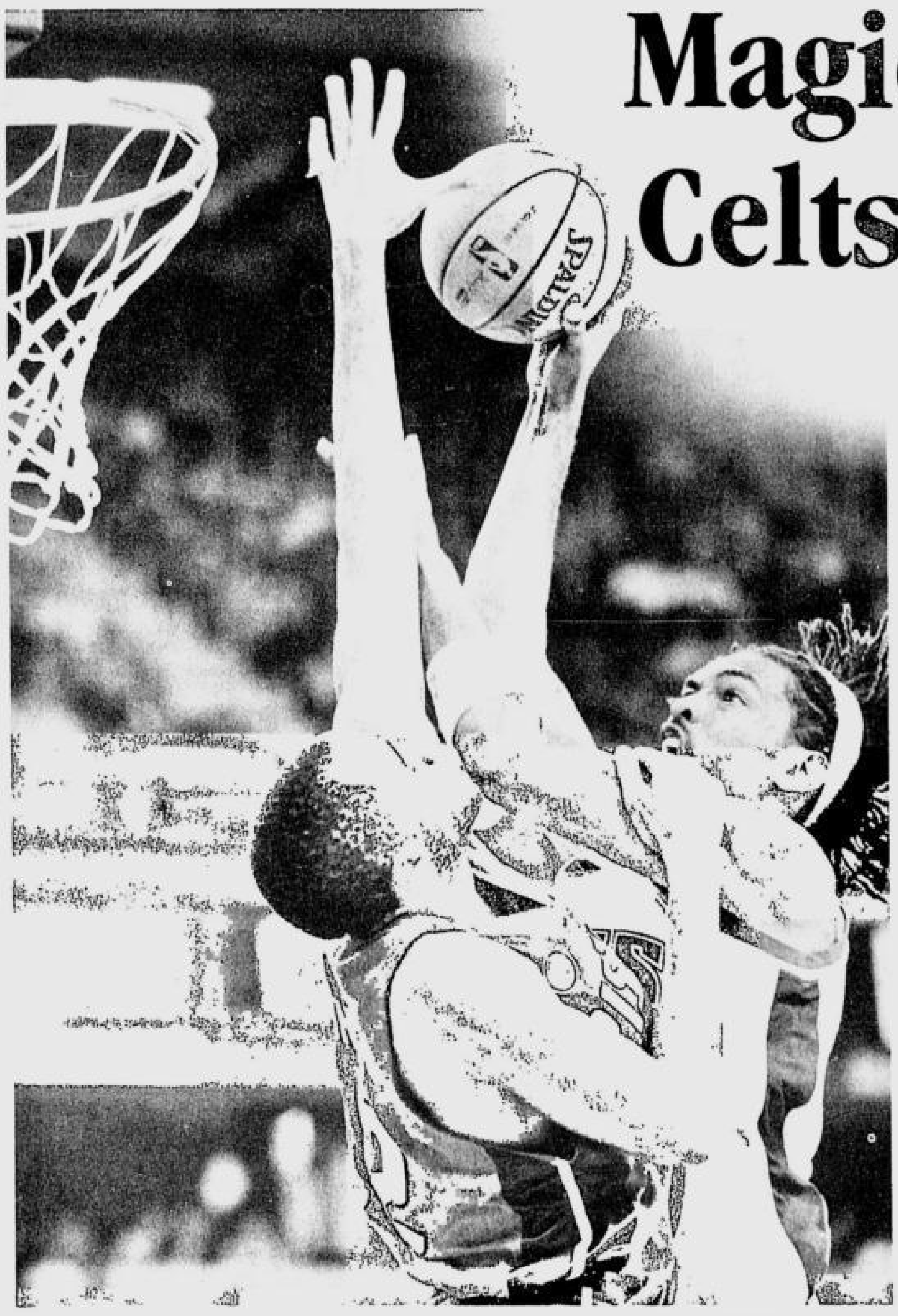
BERLIN—THIAGO PEREIRA OF BRAZIL and Stefan Nystrand of Sweden broke world records Sunday at the Arena short-course swim World Cup.

Pereira, who won six gold medals at the Pan American Games earlier this year, swam the men's 200-meter medley in 1 minute, 53.14 seconds, beating the time of 1:53.31 set by Ryan Lochte of the United States in 2006.

Nystrand swam the men's 50 freestyle in 20.93—.05 faster than Roland Schoeman's mark set in 2006 — for his second world record and the fourth overall at the Europa-Sportpark pool in two days.

Marleen Veldhuis of the Netherlands won the car awarded to the top performer following a world record in the 50 freestyle Saturday with a European best in the 100 Sunday. She timed 52.14, followed by Britta Steffen of Germany in 52.17.

On Saturday, Veldhuis beat Therese Alshammar and broke the Swede's world record by clocking 23.58 to establish herself as a favorite at the Olympics. *AP*


THE KINGS' Mikki Moore (right) wards off Pistons' Tayshaun Prince in their NBA game in Sacramento, Calif., on Sunday. The Kings won 105-95. AP

Magic spell pulls Celts to first loss

NEW YORK—THE ORLANDO MAGIC BECAME THE FIRST TEAM TO defeat the Celtics this season, bringing an end to Boston's eight-game winning streak with a 104-102 home victory on Sunday.

Orlando (9-2) got off to a fast start before holding off a furious late comeback bid by the last remaining NBA team with a perfect record.

"They couldn't stop us in the first half, we couldn't stop them in the second half," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy told reporters.

Dwight Howard scored 24 points and Rashard Lewis had 22 for the winners while Paul Pierce led Boston with 28 points but missed a three-pointer with a second remaining that would have won the contest.

"I thought I had a good look at a three," Pierce said. "I saw about one or two seconds left (on the clock) and I could have drove and tied the game up but I went with my instincts."

Orlando had enjoyed a 20-point lead on Lewis' jumper in the second quarter but Boston battled back to lead 88-87 with 6:03 left in the game on back-to-back three-pointers by Eddie House and James Posey.

Orlando then ran off six straight points, capped by Hedo Turkoglu's three-pointer at 4:51.

The Magic moved into a 103-99 lead on two Lewis free throws with 15 seconds remaining, but Ray Allen hit a three-pointer with seven seconds on the clock to pull Boston within 103-102.

A Lewis free throw then accounted for the game's final point after a foul by Pierce.

"Great game, they played great we didn't compete until the second half," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said.

Jameer Nelson added 18 points for the Magic and Turkoglu contributed 16.

Allen finished with 19 for Boston with Rajon Rondo scoring 18. Kevin Garnett added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Kobe Bryant scored 18 points and the Los Angeles Lakers won their third straight game with a 106-78 home victory over the Chicago Bulls. Ben Gordon topped the Bulls with 20 points.

Beno Udrih's 23 points sparked the Sacramento Kings to a 105-95 home win over the Detroit Pistons. Tayshaun Prince scored 19 points and Rasheed Wallace had 17 points and 12 rebounds for Detroit.

The Golden State Warriors rallied to beat the Toronto Raptors, 106-102, with all five starters scoring in double figures. Stephen Jackson led the way with 17. T.J. Ford topped the Raptors with 29. *Reuters*

Ochoa breaks $4-M barrier with 8th victory

PALM BEACH, FLORIDA—WORLD number one Lorena Ochoa birdied the last hole to hold off Natalie Gulbis and win the $1 million top prize at the season-ending LPGA Tour Championship here Sunday.

Mexico's Ochoa stumbled to a double-bogey five at the 17th hole and the four-stroke lead she had enjoyed since the sixth hole shrank to a single shot as Gulbis birdied the 17th.

But Ochoa answered with a birdie on the final hole to finish on four-under par 68, two strokes better than US standout Gulbis to claim the largest prize in women's golf by winning an 18-hole, eight-woman shootout.

"This is a great way to end a great year," Ochoa said. "One of my goals was to win more titles than (six from) last year and to win a first major. I've done both."

Ochoa, who won the Women's British Open, captured her eighth title of the year and boosted her record prize money total above $4.4 million.

But her downfall nearly came on the 17th, which she had quadruple bogeyed on Thursday.

"As I look back on 17, my caddie was like, 'OK, we have one more hole, just finish,'" Ochoa said. "And I just won the tournament."

Gulbis was going for the pin at the 18th as she had all day but settled for par on the final hole.

OCHOA: Raking it in REUTERS

Ochoa, who had already clinched the LPGA season money crown and top player honors, jumped to a four-stroke lead after only six holes.

She birdied the second, third, fifth and six to reach four-under par while no rival was below par.

Creamer birdied the 11th and Gulbis the 13th to each stand within four of Ochoa with only five holes to play, setting the stage for Ochoa's stumble and eventual salvation.

Creamer was third on par 72 followed by compatriot Cristie Kerr on 74, South Koreans Mi Hyun Kim on 78 and Sarah Lee on 80, US veteran Christina Kim on 81 and Australian Karrie Webb on 84. *AFP*

Orchard Founders Cup tee times moved up

SHOTGUN START TIMES FOR the Orchard Founders Cup slated this Thursday to Sunday have been moved to 6:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. for the morning and afternoon sessions due to the shortened daylight hours, organizers announced yesterday.

The four-ball format will be used at the Gary Player course and the aggregate format at the Arnold Palmer to accommodate the 700-plus cast of entries.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos heads the entries in the event that dangles P1.5 million in cash and merchandise prizes throughout Founders Cup week, according to Orchard president Conrad Benitez.

Grand raffle prizes in this year's tournament—sponsored mainly by Globe Telecom, Security Bank/MasterCard, BMW/Ford Alabang, Bostik Phils./Davies Technical Solutions, Sta. Lucia Realty, Philippine Airlines and Mizuno—are PAL business class tickets for two to the West Coast packaged with a Royal Caribbean Cruise, two BMW cars and other major prizes with a combined value of more than P5 million.

Each participant will have eight chances to shoot a hole-in-one and win a BMW luxury car.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Premier Edition (5), Green Lane (6), Aim To Please (1), Rock Hard/Tempest (7)

Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Valid Hazm/Kimagure (3), Field Star (1), Material Ruler (6), Imperial Manila (2), Angie Red (7)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Pabilic Express (1), Terry Toon (4), Madel Line (5), Daddy's Girl (2)

Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Kambro (7), American Inggo (4), Uncle Buck (3), Mr. Lucas (2), Golden Harry (8)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Stream Time (2), Summer Rain (1), Iron Chef/Terminator (8), Coat of Arms (4), Old Reliable (5)

Race 6—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)— Ho Ho Ho (11), Gonzalon Story (10), King Ajhun (2), Given (6), Blue Print (8), Graceful Conqueror (5)

Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Dancing Queen (7), Vhinggot (1), Reign Of Fire/Lord of the Ring (4), Fighting Jack/Heart of my Soul (8), Gallant Warrior (1), Grand Fiesta (5), Maximum Impact (3), Ingay Ingay (4), Victory Ranger (1)

Get well, Angel

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SOFT-SPOKEN AND ALWAYS AFFABLE Angel Nepomuceno, father-coach of bowling great Paeng Nepomuceno, has been in hospital due to a hip fracture he suffered at home a week ago.

"My 79-year-old dad was washing his face when he suddenly lost his balance and fell," recalled four-time Bowling World Cup champion Paeng. "It was sad, a big shock, to the whole family."

Angel was rushed to the Cardinal Santos Hospital, where he stayed at the Intensive Care Unit for some time. But according to Paeng, his dad is now out of the ICU unit although Angel is still unable to stand and move. "Even the slightest movement gives my dad unbearable pain."

Worse, Paeng said, his dad caught pneumonia, slowing down his recovery after he underwent surgery to replace a bone socket in the hip. It will take several weeks of physical therapy and rehabilitation before Angel can resume normal daily activities.

* * *

The average healing time for this kind of hip injury is six to eight weeks, according to Dr. H. Winter Griffith, author of the best-selling book "Sports Injuries."

Healing is considered complete when there is no pain or motion at the fracture site and when X-rays show complete bone union. Thus, Angel can begin daily rehabilitation exercises when movement is comfortable.

Paeng was the guest of honor during last Friday's well-attended Bulacan Court Employees Association (Bulcea) bowling tournament at the DJ Paradise Resort in Malolos City. The kegfest was sponsored by the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) Bulacan chapter headed by reelected president lawyer Pete Principe.

Highlights of the affair were the presentation of the Key to the City of Malolos to Nepomuceno by Mayor Danilo Domingo and the exhibition match between Judge Guillermo "Panky" Agloro and Nepomuceno wherein the multititled Paeng wowed the Bulakeños with his bowling skills and pleasant demeanor.

Bulcea president lawyer Rene Reyes led the welcomers from the province.

* * *

Reader Isabelo Filomeno, writing all the way from Cagayan de Oro, says: "All these years I've read your column with much interest because it's done with sincerity, honesty and written with plenty of facts. I even read in your column sometime ago the name of our former coach at the Abellana High School in Cebu City, Pio Robillos, an Asian Games player in the late '20s.

"Let me take this opportunity to request that you include in your column a list of basketball Olympians from 1936 up to the time we last played in the Olympics. I'm sure many of your readers would be interested to know them.

"When the Micaa disbanded and the PBA was formed, it started the downgrading of our Filipino players. Team owners gave more emphasis on imports at the expense of our local (homegrown) players. If we don't change our system of developing athletes, attitude and love of country, we won't stand much of a chance against foreign national teams.

So, how about it? I've been following basketball since 1948—the heydays of Lauro "The Fox" Mumar and company. They really played for love of country. I am now 72 but still active in reading and viewing (games on TV).

"Thanks, good health and more power."

(In a future column, I will write about your request.—MRI)

SPORTS

GMA Cup: So, two others seek grandmaster titles

By Roy Luarca

YOUNG SENSATION WESLEY SO LEADS THREE Filipinos bidding for grandmaster titles when the National Chess Federation of the Philippines stages the President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Cup International Open and the third Prospero Pichay Jr. Cup international tournament in the next three weeks.

The 14-year-old So, the world's strongest player in his age group with his Elo rating of 2531, needs only one more GM result, just like fellow International Masters Ronald Dableo and Jayson Gonzales, to become the country's eighth grandmaster.

And the absence of two Chinese super GMs and Indonesia's top two players who will vie in the World Cup is expected to boost the Filipinos' chances in the GMA Cup, which stakes $40,000 (about P17.2M) and the $30,000 Pichay Cup event.

DABLEO ERIK ARAZAS

WESLEY SO RYAN LIM

Both the GMA Cup, slated Nov. 22-28 at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Parañaque City, and the Pichay Cup, scheduled Dec. 1-7 at the Bayview Hotel in Manila, will adopt the nine-round Swiss system.

"*Pipilitin ko po* (I'll try my best)," said So, a high school sophomore at the St. Francis of Assisi-Bacoor who won the 2007 World Under 16 Team Championship Board 1 gold medal with an astonishing 9.5 points out of a perfect 10. "These tournaments provide a golden opportunity for GM aspirants like me."

Dableo is raring to redeem himself after serving a suspension slapped on him by the NCFP while Gonzales is hoping to end his three-year quest and finally join the ranks of Filipino GMs Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio, Mark Paragua, Bong Villamayor, Nelson Mariano and Darwin Laylo.

With Chinese GMs Ni Jua and Li Chao and Indonesian aces Utut Adianto and Susanto Megaranto absent, reigning titlist Zhang Pengxiang, also the winner of the Sixth Asia Chess Championship in Mandaue City in September, has been tagged the favorite for the $6000 GMA Cup champion's purse.

Ni, Li, Adianto, Megaranto and Laylo have qualified for the World Cup set in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, starting on Nov. 23.

"We're confident that we can duplicate, if not surpass, the success of previous international tournaments that we have hosted," said NCFP president Prospero Pichay Jr., who is hoping to produce the second GM under his tenure in the twin tournaments being backed by Duty Free Philippines and Pagcor.

Opening ceremonies of the GMA Cup will begin at 3 p.m. on Nov. 22.

Jins eye Olympic berths anew in Asian qualifier

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE TAEKWONDO RESUMES ITS mission to beat a path to the Beijing Olympics, this time via Vietnam.

The country's top three jins will fly to Ho Chi Minh City this Saturday to fight for the right to compete in the Olympics in the Asian qualifying event.

Mary Antoinette Rivero, Alexander Briones and Elaine Alora hope to join Tshomlee Go, who earlier secured an Olympic slot by bagging the bronze medal in the world qualifying held last September in Manchester, England.

Rivero, who missed the cut in Manchester after dropping a sudden-death decision in the quarterfinals, will vie for her second straight Olympic stint in the female 67 kg division.

A veteran of the Athens Olympics, Rivero fell a win short of an outright berth to Beijing. She received the raw end of the calls from the referees who awarded the win to her Croatian opponent in the extra round, where the first to score wins the match.

Briones lost to British bet Aaron Cook in the first round of the 80 kg world qualifying while Alora takes the place of elder sister Eunice in the female 49kg. Eunice also bowed out in the first round in Manchester.

ATHENS 2004
ATHENS 2004
ARGENTINA

SECOND CHANCE: Mary Antoinette Rivero (left) in action during the Athens Olympics. AP

The 17-year-old Elaine is the reigning Southeast Asian Games gold medalist who started in the sport as a 5-year-old.

Go will also be joining the team to familiarize himself with the competitors and act as one of the trainers, according to Philippine Taekwondo Association officials.

PTA president and Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado will lead the delegation along with the PTA executive vice president, grandmaster Hong Sung Chon.

Roberto "Kitoy" Cruz and Rocky Samson are the men's and women's coaches, respectively.

Jalandoni grabs TRS Novice Cup driver slot

JED JALANDONI BESTED OTHER young aspiring racers to emerge the 5th TRS-C! Magazine Top Driver Challenge champion recently at the Subic International Raceway.

Jalandoni, a 19-year-old from Bacolod and a student of College of St. Benilde, stood out among the five finalists as the unanimous choice of the instructor-judges.

For his victory, Jalandoni qualified for a slot in the Ford Focus Novice Cup, scheduled Nov. 23-24 and organized by Tuason Racing School (TRS) in Subic.

"I can't believe I came out as the winner since I raced against more experienced drivers," Jalandoni said. "I guess my advantage was I personally drove a Ford Focus, so I was well aware of its handling capabilities."

The race drivers were chosen by TRS founder and racing champion JP Tuason after completing the basic and advanced circuit car training at the Subic raceway.

They were later given lapping sessions on the racetrack wherein participants practiced with a TRS mentor aboard.

Baron Travel-Royal Carib golf today at Southwoods

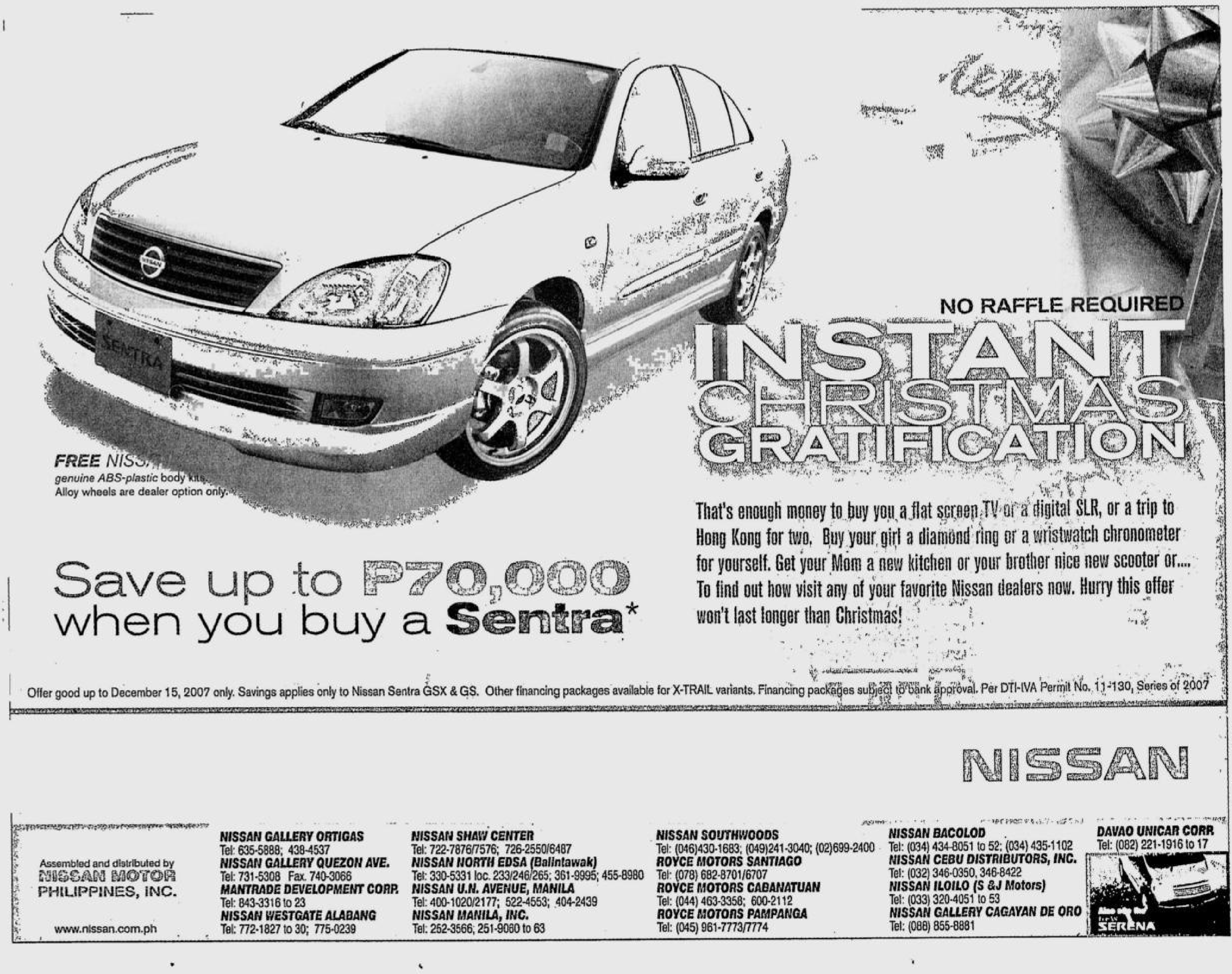
OVER 200 PLAYERS TEE OFF today in the 5th Baron Travel Royal Caribbean Golf Classic at the Legends course of the Manila Southwoods in Carmona, Cavite.

The tournament field, made up of Baron Travel's top corporate clients, will shoot for top honors plus fabulous vacation packages.

Among those at stake are Royal Caribbean Cruise packages, inclusive of air fare, donated by Philippine Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airline, Korean Air, and Cathay Pacific Airways, among others.

International and domestic plane tickets and packages courtesy of Continental Airlines, Seair, Asian Spirit, El Nido Resorts and Camp John Hay Manor and Camp John Hay Golf Club are also up for grabs in the grand raffle during the awarding ceremonies.

The event is also supported by Fila Golf, Yes! Golf, XXIO/Srixon, and Assistcard International.



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T-bill yields decline as gov't reject most bids

Banks fail to push up rates on all maturities

By Doris C. Dumlao

YIELDS ON TREASURY BILLS fell across all maturities yesterday as the government foiled banks' attempt to push up the rates, and rejected most bids during the primary auction.

Rates on the 91-day T-bill rate—the benchmark in pricing loans—declined to an average of 3.672 percent from 3.7 percent registered in the last auction two weeks ago.

The rate on 182-day T-bill tenor averaged lower at 4.692 percent from 4.707 percent, while the 364-day T-bill average rate also slipped to 5.567 percent from 5.628 percent.

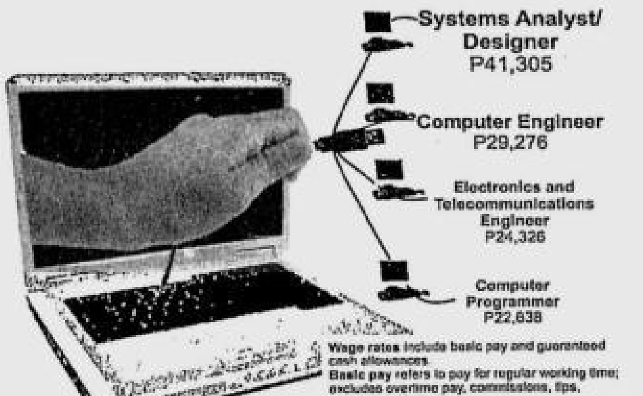
T-BILL/ B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Monthly wage rates in computer-related professions (August 2006)

Systems analysts and designers get the highest average monthly wage rates among computer-related professions.


Systems Analyst/ Designer P41,305
Computer Engineer P29,276
Electronics and Telecommunications Engineer P24,326
Computer Programmer P22,638

Wage rates include basic pay and guaranteed cash allowances.
Basic pay refers to pay for regular working time; excludes overtime pay, commissions, tips, payment in kind, etc.
Allowances refer to living allowances; excludes reimbursement for travel, bonuses, etc.

Source: Occupational Wages Survey 2006
Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

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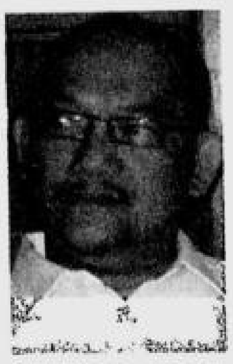
JACINTO


SERRANO

ABESAMIS

Malacañang replaces Philcomsat nominees

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT yesterday appointed a fresh set of nominees to the controversial Philcomsat group of companies, signaling a potential end to one of the most acrimonious disputes on the local corporate scene.

The new government nominees on the board of the Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) are former National Telecommunications Commission chief Abraham Abesamis, businessman Ramon Jacinto and Lakas-CMD Deputy Secretary-General Rodolfo G. Serrano.

Also appointed by Malacañang as directors of the parent firm, Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), are retired Justice Santiago Ranada, lawyer Daniel C. Gutierrez and labor leader Allan S. Montano.

They replaced the previous set of government nominees Enrique Locsin, Manuel Andal, Julio Jalandoni and Guy de Leon.

During yesterday's stockholders' meeting, the government was represented by Presidential Management Staff Undersecretary Enrique D. Perez and lawyers of the Department of Justice who were responsible for voting the state's 35-percent stake in the firm.

Other Philcomsat directors elected during the meeting were Erlinda Ilusorio-Bildner, Honorio Poblador III, Katrina Ponce-Enrile, Pablo Lobregat, Marietta Ilusorio and Lorna Kapunan. Bildner, Poblador, Ponce-Enrile, Lobregat, Ilusorio and Federico Agcaoili were also named POTC directors.

Yesterday's event marked the first time in five years that the government and the private stockholders agreed on a unified board of directors, Bildner said in an interview.

"We are now a unified board and our next step is to take control of Philcomsat Holdings Corp. which is under the control of this impostor group," she said, referring to the previous set of government nominees.

"They should have been out of the picture a long time ago, but this time, they're officially out of the picture," she added.

Bildner said the new board would like Philcomsat to reassert itself in the telecommunications business, although it remains unclear which segment the company would enter into.

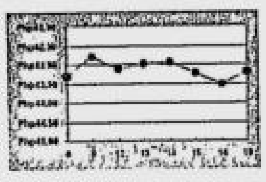
"What we want to do is to create value for our stakeholders, which includes the government," she said.

According to a statement released by Bildner's camp,

MALACAÑANG/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

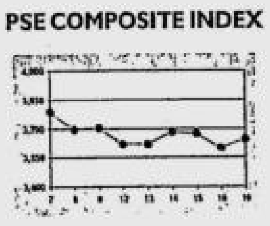

NOVEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱43.19 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Nov. 19, 2007

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX


NOVEMBER

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 1.3% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 1.3 percent higher, boosted by Wall Street's performance at the end of last week and indications of a strong domestic economy, dealers said.

STOCKS/ B2

BSP eases forex climate for OFW households

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has prepared measures to boost the remittance environment for Filipino workers abroad and cushion the adverse impact of a strong peso on households supported by overseas inflows.

In a recent report to Malacañang, the BSP said that in order to enhance transparency and promote competition in the remittance market, banks would be required to post within their premises and websites their various remittance products and charges with breakdown of costs, delivery time to beneficiaries, and other relevant information.

"The transparency of bank charges would enable Filipinos overseas to shop for cheaper and better service providers," the BSP said. "At the same time, this encourages greater competition among remittance agents and promotes lower remittance fees and charges."

To improve access to financial services, rural banks would be allowed to service foreign exchange remittances as well as buy and sell foreign exchange, facilitating the remittance process. This is expected to improve the delivery of remittance service and provide depositors, including overseas Filipinos, the option to keep their savings in the form of foreign currency deposits—if they so wish—instead of immediately exchanging their earnings for pesos.

The BSP has also approved alternative modes of remittances, such as Internet-based remittance, use of mobile phones for performing financial transactions utilizing the SMS/text feature of cell phones for balance inquiry, fund transfer and withdrawals.

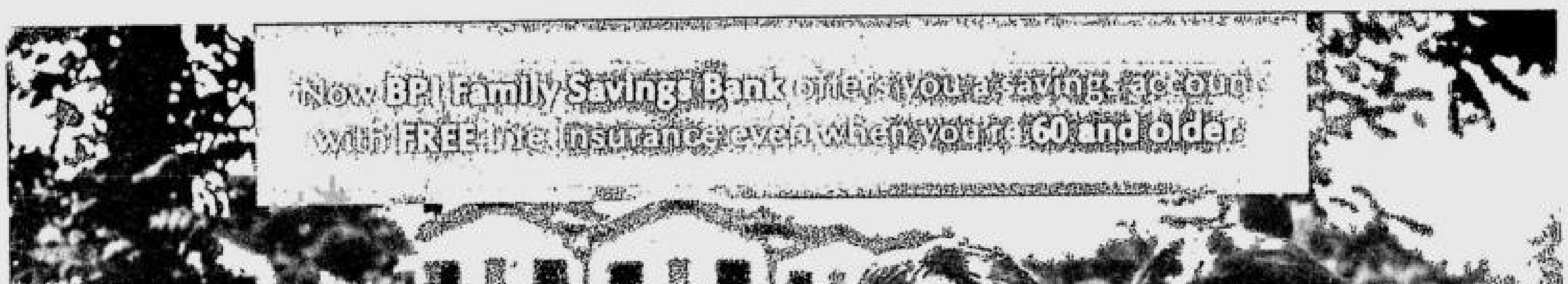
"Banks have also introduced other new technologies to which beneficiaries will have greater access, such as card products with debit feature to facilitate remittances with financial institutions as issuers, and telephone companies as service providers," the BSP said.

The interconnection of the three major automated teller machine networks—Megalink, Bancnet and Expressnet—also effectively widened the delivery network of overseas remittances and improved the country's payments and settlements system for a faster and safer flow of remittance funds to beneficiaries, the central bank said.

Acceptable IDs for financial transactions were also simplified, in order to attract overseas remittances to the banking channel.

To encourage overseas Filipinos and their families to increase their savings and invest-

BSP/ B2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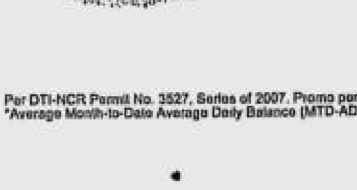

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Incentives expected to lure Taiwan firms to RP

Discouraged in China, companies are enticed to set up shop in Subic

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TAIWAN IS PUSHING for more investment incentives for its companies locating in the Philippines as Taipei and Manila continue their work in establishing the Subic-Kaohsiung economic corridor.

Minister of Economic Affairs Steve Chen said during a visit last week that Taiwanese investors are particularly hopeful for better business climate at the Subic and Clark freeport zones.

"Many Taiwanese firms are increasingly getting discouraged with the deteriorating investment conditions in China and are looking for alternative destinations," Chen told reporters.

He said Subic and Clark are "excellent locations" in terms of geography and the availability of facilities.

However, he said, Taiwanese investors wanted a more favorable environment, including additional incentives.

"Some examples under discussions are ensuring sufficient supply of power and water, with much more stable prices; ensuring production cost could be maintained at a much lower level; providing market potential for Taiwanese investors, not only in RP, but throughout Southeast Asia," Chen said.

Officials from Taipei are cooperating closely with their counterparts in Manila to ensure that the Subic-Kaohsiung corridor will get to provide more incentives to Taiwanese investors, he added.

The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding in December 2005 to establish the growth corridor, which will link the industrial enclaves and freeports of Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan and Subic in northwestern Luzon.

In previous visits, Taipei officials have said the the Taiwanese firms wanted some form of assurance concerning access to the Philippine market. They also sought easier application process for Kaohsiung locators who want to invest in Subic, and smooth flow of workers and corporate officials between the zones.

Chen was in the country to attend an economic conference held last Friday at the InterContinental Hotel in Makati City.

2GO pilots cold chain

By Riza T. Olchondra

2GO, THE LOGISTICS ARM of the Aboitiz Transport System, has partnered with the Department of Agriculture to test its cold chain service.

Cold chain, a temperature-controlled supply chain for perishable goods, completes 2GO's line of services.

2GO is offering this service as a new option for customers sending smaller volumes of cargo that require cold storage.

2GO has offered this service to the DA in support of the government's ongoing World Food Day project.

The DA, in cooperation with barangay officials, set up 24 Barangay Food Terminals in Luzon where produce from the agriculture basket of Mindanao is sold at more affordable prices.

Under the program with 2Go, the consolidated demand requirements from the terminals are sent to suppliers from Davao and Bukidnon and the produce is loaded onto the 2GO cold-reefer trucks and distributed via the roll on, roll-off network.

Through this partnership between 2GO and the DA, farmers are able to send their goods without going through middlemen, thus cutting down on costs.

T-bill yields decline as gov't reject ...

From page B1

The government's auction committee accepted only P3.29 billion out of the P6 billion offered, while tenders amounted to P9.8 billion.

Had the auction committee awarded its offering in full, the T-bill rates would have risen across the board, said Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran.

"There's no reason why the rates should go up ... it's against what [the government] expects," Beltran said. "We have lots of cash, so why do we need to accept those high bids?"

For the third time this year, the BSP lowered its benchmark interest rates by 25 basis points during the Monetary Board's monthly policy rate last week. The overnight borrowing rate was slashed to 5.5 percent and the overnight lending rate to 7.5 percent, their lowest levels in 15 years.

Secondary market rates of government securities fell by an average of 7 basis points last week after the central bank slashed its overnight rates for the second straight month.

Before the auction, Beltran said the committee conducted a survey and the indication was that the rates should fall. He said there was no negative news that could justify the sudden change in market sentiment.

On news that the Bureau of Internal Revenue might have fallen short of its revenue target in October, Beltran said the government's overall fiscal position for the month "wasn't too bad."

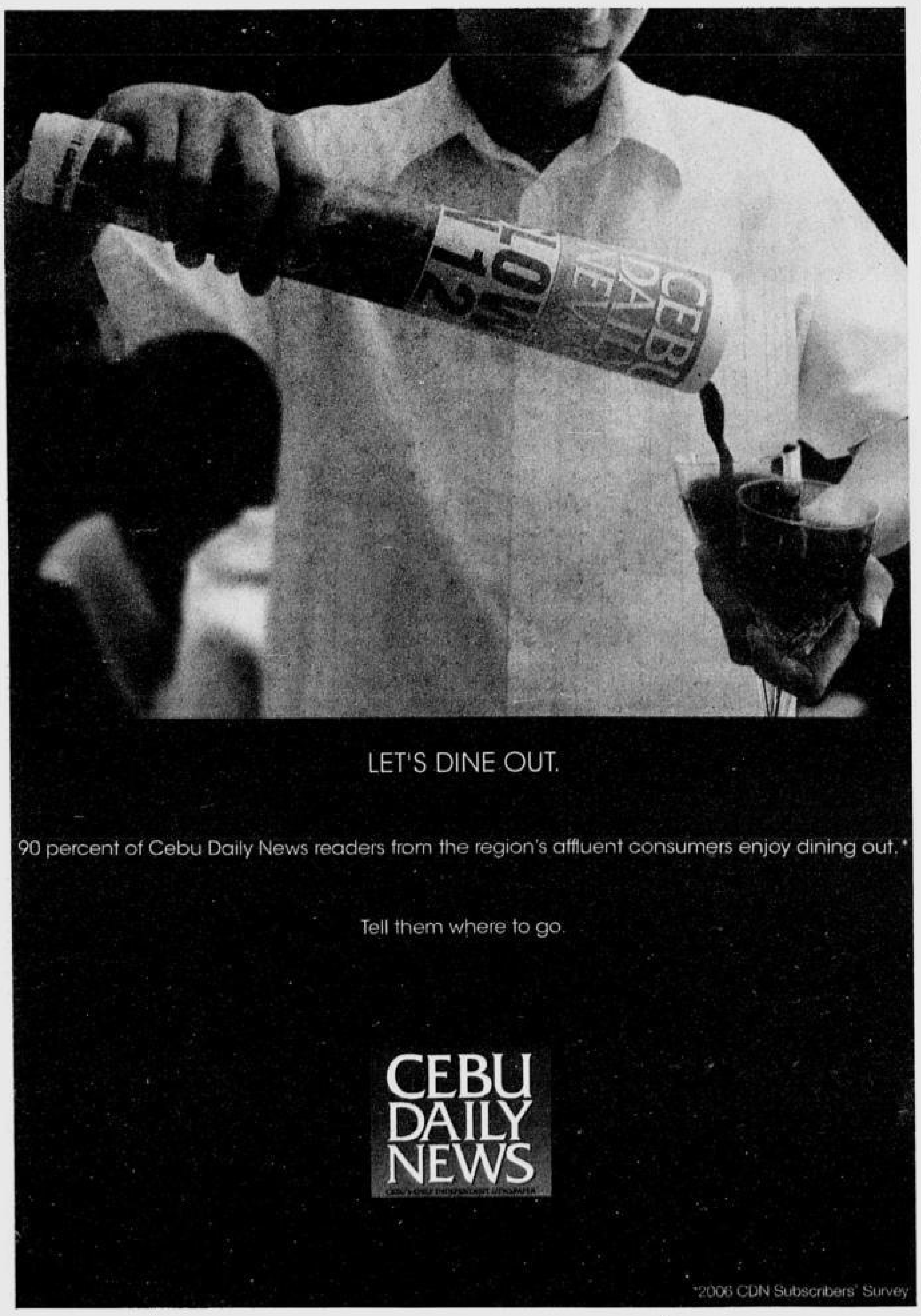
On the other hand, some bankers said the market was demanding for higher yield from T-bills to make these government securities more competitive against the BSP's high-yielding special deposit accounts.

Malacañang replaces Philcomsat nominees

From page B1

the Philcomsat group has been involved in controversy "ever since the appointment of the Locsin group in 2002."

With new government nominees in the Philcomsat companies, the unified board now intends to take control of its subsidiaries, PHC and Telecommunications Center Inc. (TCI), which are still being managed by Locsin, Andal, Lokin, Brodett and Tan, the statement added.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Exercise tax

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

OKAY, WE HAVE BEEN flooded with reports containing excuses for that notorious decision of the Department of Finance to lower the tax on the foreign cigarette brand "Pall Mall."

Yet, we heard virtually nothing from the ways and means committee of the House of Representatives when it conducted a hearing on the same case last week. Hmmm....

Do you think that last week's bombing at the Batasan took the attention of news outfits away from the proceedings? It's possible.

But I also heard that a couple of PRs, known in media as "RD" and "RG," who incidentally have the same nickname, were working overtime on the issue.

The House is investigating the DOF decision to lower the excise tax on Pall Mall, thus favoring its maker, the foreign firm British American Tobacco (BAT).

Former BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag set the Pall Mall tax rate at P26 per pack, but DOF undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza lowered it to P5 per pack, which was—interestingly—the same rate sought by BAT.

Up to now, neither the DOF nor the BIR wants to release to the public copies of the supposed Mendoza ruling.

Now, in the House hearing, Rep. Monico Fuentabella (Bacolod City) said that the excise tax law does not give the DOF power to determine the rate of excise taxes, adding that the authority belongs solely to the BIR head.

Moreover, even assuming that the DOF really believed that the BIR decision was wrong, couldn't the DOF just keep quiet?

Look, the BIR had already set the higher tax rate. Why should the DOF, whose main job is to raise revenue, lift its finger to lower the rate in BAT's favor? What kind of an exercise in collecting higher taxes is that? Beats me!

Even Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile is saying that, instead of helping BAT outright by reserving the BIR, the DOF should just tell BAT to go to court to contest the BIR rate.

Again, the main job of the DOF is to raise the tax collection of this administration. So, how does the DOF collect more taxes, if it lowers tax rates at the mere say-so of vice merchants like BAT?

In fact, the poor collection of the BIR lately has caught the ire of the Lola at the Palace. From what I heard, the Lola treated Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to a little dressing down during a meeting at the Palace last week. It seems that the DOF has been missing its collection targets rather miserably in the second half of the year.

So much so that Teves didn't even talk to newsmen about the meeting.

And it was a bit surprising, considering that, only some months ago, when Buñag was still the BIR head, Teves had been quite talkative about collection targets.

By the way, Gading Mendoza, the DOF undersecretary who wrote the BAT-friendly ruling, also revealed in the House ways and means committee hearing that his action had the full knowledge and backing of—who else—Teves.

* * *

STILL hanging in the Supreme Court is the so-called Maysilo estate case, running for almost 50 years now, putting on edge hundreds of thousands of residents of Malabon, Caloocan, Quezon City and Valenzuela.

Remember that the case involves 300 hectares of land in those cities—on which stand thousands of houses, hundreds of factories, government buildings, large universities, malls, and a good part of the North Luzon Expressway.

A group called CLT Realty is claiming the 300 hectares, the ownership of which has long been exercised by the Manotok group, the Araneta family, and thousands of ordinary folk.

Earlier, the Supreme Court in effect ruled in favor of CLT Realty, when it affirmed the decision of the lower courts on the case, saying that the Supreme Court was not a "trier" of facts.

The government then intervened in the case because of the state properties falling under the claim of CLT Realty. The Office of the Solicitor General subsequently presented to the Supreme Court proof the CLT Realty title was a fabrication.

Thus the Supreme Court is now reviewing its earlier ruling.

Just which way it would go, is surely being watched by the thousands of residents of those cities.

In one subdivision, the Santo Niño Kapitbahayan, for instance, about 450 families will be directly affected by the Supreme Court ruling.

The University of the East, Gregorio Araneta University-De la Salle and Manila Central University (and their 20,000 or so students) may also have to relocate.

Also to be affected by the Supreme Court ruling are the Grand Central, Araneta Square, Bonifacio Market, Victory Liner and Pure Gold.

It may even threaten the real property tax systems of the four cities, since businesses will have to abandon their sites to give way to the claim of CLT Realty.

Moreover, the Supreme Court ruling may spill over to the rest of the Maysilo estate, which actually covers some 1,660 hectares of land.

That means that the number of families to be affected by the high court decision may run to more than 300,000. It is going to be that messy.

* * *

IN THE past three quarters, based on report of the Department of Agriculture, the farm sector posted a growth of 4.3 percent.

That was better than what the DA expected, since the northern part of the country was hit by a dry spell in the middle of the year.

The Bangko Sentral even noted that the adequate supply of rice was a key factor behind the low inflation last October, which was recorded at 2.7 percent, as against 5.4 percent last year.

Still I heard that, in strategy sessions of the DA, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap has been harping on several threats to world agriculture, such as climate change, ecological stress, burgeoning demand for food in China and India, and the worldwide trend of switching from food to "biofuel" crops.

Here in Asia, according to Yap, several countries (Bangladesh, India and China among them) are projecting rice shortages.

Uh-oh, as an importer of rice, the Philippines may have a hard time getting supplies in the world market.

In China, the inflation rate of food items reached 18 percent.

Worldwide, the price of wheat has already doubled. Corn is almost 50 percent higher, while rice has gone up 20 percent.

The Food and Agriculture Organization is also expected to announce that the world's food reserves are at their lowest in 25 years and that prices are expected to remain high.

According to reports on the UN World Food Program, catastrophic floods had hit 57 countries—29 in Africa, 19 in Asia, and the rest in Latin America.

Let us pray.

BSP eases forex ...

From page B1

ments, the BSP has also proposed the issuance of multicurrency-denominated Retail Treasury Bond (RTB) instruments for overseas Filipinos.

"With a proposed initial offer size of $1 billion, the bond issuance would promote saving among overseas Filipinos as well as raise funds for development financing," the BSP said.

For their part, the BSP said, commercial banks would start offering overseas Filipinos specialized investment products and services, including insurance and pension plans and real estate through tie-up arrangements with pre-need and development firms.

The banks have designed direct payment schemes to ensure the security and convenience of the household-beneficiaries, the central bank said.

Moreover, the BSP has approved the proposal of ING Bank to launch the International Filipino Fund, a balanced fund of equity and fixed income positions, with the PNB as its distributor/marketer through ING and PNB branches overseas.

"Lastly, the BSP continues to undertake its advocacy through financial literacy campaigns that aim to promote a culture of savings among overseas Filipinos and their families," the central bank said.

Overseas Filipinos and their beneficiaries are being educated about safe practices in investing in financial products. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Shares close 1.3% higher

From page B1

But underlying concerns on the health of the US economy limited the gains, they added.

The composite index added 46.26 points to 3,645.22. The broader all-share index rose 12.69 points to 2,222.99.

"After several days of downturn, the market had a technical bounce from its strong drop last week," said Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities.

Decliners outpaced gainers 56 to 40, while 60 stocks ended flat.

A total of 2.5 billion shares worth P3.5 billion ($80.83 million) changed hands. *AFP*

Opec leaves dollar, output questions hanging after meet

RIYADH—OPEC LEADERS ENDED THEIR summit clearly divided on key issues, leaving open questions about the use of the waning dollar for oil trading and the cartel's willingness to increase production.

A final declaration from the newly enlarged 13-member oil exporters' group on Sunday pledged reliable supplies, urged world peace to help stabilize prices and included a commitment to help fight global warming.

Saudi moderation prevailed over a bid by Opec's anti-US bloc to make the group more political and there was no return to the "revolutionary" days of the 1970s that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez spoke affectionately about in his opening address.

"Opec shouldn't be used as a political organization," Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal said at a closing press conference. "Oil should be a tool for development and not a tool for conflicts."

In the run-up to the two-day summit, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries—which supplies 40 percent of world oil—had been under pressure to increase supplies to help cool record prices of nearly $100 a barrel.

Although some ministers expressed concern that expensive crude would eventually dampen demand for oil, they said blame for the near triple-figure price lay outside the cartel and turned a deaf ear to the demands.

Oil ministers will meet next month in Abu Dhabi to discuss the cartel's output policy, with any breach of the $100-level in between times likely to heap pressure on the group to act.

Opec last decided in September to raise output by 500,000 barrels a day, effective November 1.

The falling dollar, which is used by oil exporters to price and sell their crude, was at the center of a clash between Iran, backed by Venezuela and new leftist member Ecuador, and key US ally Saudi Arabia.

"The dollar is falling, all heads of state were upset today because of the dollar. The value of their (financial) reserves has dropped," Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said in an attack on the "worthless" US unit.

"All leaders taking part in the meeting were willing to convert the pricing of oil into a currency other than the dollar," he said.

The slide in the dollar, which has lost 15 percent of its value against the euro in the last 12 months, has hit Opec countries, which rely heavily on oil exports.

As a final compromise, leaders agreed that oil and finance ministers from the group would look at pricing oil with a basket of currencies, which would reduce volatility of prices but would further weaken the US currency.

"By changing the pricing structure, you are really talking about revolutionizing the economies of these dollar-based economies," commented Yasser Elguindi, oil analyst at US-based financial services group SIG.

Dependence on the US currency also has clear political significance for the anti-US bloc, as well as Ecuador, which want to abandon the greenback.

"The day will arrive not only in Opec, but also in Latin America, when we will be liberated from the dollar," Chavez said on Sunday.

AFP

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PSE net income up 174%

Listing-related earnings provided the boost

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

A SHARP GROWTH IN THE Philippine Stock Exchange's listing-related earnings boosted the bourse's nine-month net income to P406.86 million, up 174 percent from P148.37 million a year ago.

In its financial report, the PSE said its operating income grew 120 percent to P796.04 million during the nine-month period, from P361.34 million in the same period last year.

Listing-related income, which accounts for 50 percent of operating income, surged 155 percent to P243.42 million in nine months due to higher fees and increased number of companies that held initial public offerings or additional listings.

The PSE registered seven IPOs and 44 additional listings this year, compared to only two IPOs and 33 additional listings a year ago.

Among those that held their IPOs as of September this year are Pacific Online Systems Corp., National Reinsurance Corp. of the Philippines, Phoenix Petroleum Phils., Aboitiz Power Corp., GMA Network Inc. and Anchor Land Holdings. Home builder Vista Land & Lifescapes Inc. underwent a listing by introduction process.

Those that offered additional shares to the public during the nine-month period included Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Union Bank of the Philippines, Alliance Global, Filinvest Land Inc., Philippine National Bank and Vista Land.

The increase in operating income was also attributed to higher membership fees which grew 134 percent from year ago to P113.98 million , or 14.32 percent of the total.

The huge trading volume registered during the period resulted in a 199-percent rise in transaction fees P84.665 million from P28.31 million last year.

The PSE's operating expenses also rose 26.97 percent to P208.49 million from P164.2 million in the same period last year.

Of the total expenses, compensation and other related staff expenses grew 43.8 percent to P87.64 million from P60.93 million. The PSE has 114 employees as of the period under review.

Professional fees also rose 78.5 percent to P13.28 million from P7.44 million due to the increase in the honorarium of board directors and committee members and the higher consultancy fees paid by the bourse.

Repairs and maintenance costs were higher by 35.48 percent to P6.21 million from P4.59 million.

Travel and transportation expenses were up 193 percent to P4.3 million from P1.47 million in the same period last year, while entertainment and recreation expenses rose 35 percent, mainly for meals incurred during meetings with investors and institutional representatives.

The PSE, however, said it cut down on certain costs such as infrastructure fees, membership development due to lesser golf-related expenses by getting sponsorships and lower insurance premiums.

Metrobank profit hit ₱5.3B in 9 mos

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST lender, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., posted a consolidated net profit of P5.31 billion in the first nine months, up by 19.7 percent year-on-year, as net interest income went up on higher loan volume.

The bank's full-year profit target was set at P5.53 billion. Metrobank reported an 8-percent rise in total gross income to P27.54 billion over a year ago, fueled by a 13-percent expansion in net interest income and a steady contribution of fee-based and trading gains.

Metrobank executive vice president Joshua Naing said the strong results reflected the roll-out of several initiatives meant to support growth, particularly in the areas of customer service and operations.

"The bank continues to grow its deposit business despite stiffer competition by focusing on our core markets and on improving our product and service offerings," Naing said.

Naing said the bank had likewise beefed up infrastructure support for its treasury and lending businesses.

"System improvements in risk management and compliance have also been put into place. We are now in a better position to take advantage of the improving market conditions," he said.

Consolidated assets as of end-September rose by 6.1 percent to P673.84 billion from P634.97 billion a year ago.

The bank expanded its net loan portfolio by 6.3 percent year-on-year to P282.85 billion from P266.01 billion on fresh corporate loans disbursed to companies in the power, oil, telecommunications, shipping and manufacturing sectors.

Total deposits went up by P23.97 billion to P503.22 billion while equity expanded by P9.42 billion to P68.73 billion.

In the meantime, the consolidated nonperforming loan-to-total loans ratio of the bank eased to 6.9 percent as of end-September from 9.8 percent a year ago following the bulk sale and write-off of bad loan accounts during the period.

Metrobank has a local network of 540 branches and 35 international branches and offices in 21 countries.

DMCI income increases by 68%

CONSTRUCTION GIANT DMCI HOLDINGS Inc. said its consolidated net income in the first nine months grew 68 percent to P1.735 billion from P1.029 billion in the same period last year.

In a financial report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), DMCI said the increase was due to improvements in its real estate and construction businesses, which registered a 1,322-percent and 19-percent increase in earnings during the period, respectively.

Real-estate arm DMCI Project Developers Inc. reported P583 million in earnings during the nine-month period, up 1,322 percent from only P41 million in 2006. Overseas Filipino workers accounted for about 30 percent of its total sales.

The company also estimated that 50 percent of local purchases were funded by OFW money. Most of its OFW buyers are those in Italy, London, Vienna, Hong Kong and Dubai, which are not affected considerably by the US dollar weakness, DMCI said.

Bonifacio Heights, DMCI's 7.7-hectare condominium project at Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, for the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), made significant contribution to total earnings during th period.

However, DMCI said it recorded a P322-million loss in the third quarter from an income of P185 million in 2006, after the company decided to reverse some extraordinary and nonrecurring items in its water business under DMCI-MPIC Water Co. Inc. (DMWC), the joint venture between DMCI and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

iRemit earnings hit ₱82M in 9 mos

MONEY TRANSFER FIRM IREMIT INC. registered a 184-percent increase in net earnings to P82 million from January to September this year from P28.9 million in the same period last year.

In its financial report filed with the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), the company said its operating revenue increased 46.7 percent to P353.5 million in the first nine months, from P240.9 million last year due to growth in transactions handled.

The company said transaction count or the total number of remittance transactions handled by iRemit subsidiaries, affiliates and tie-ups in foreign countries rose 37.4 percent to 1.34 million in 2007, from 978,497 in 2006. Also contributing to the rise in revenue is the 35-percent increase in US dollar remittance volume to $537.2 million in 2007, from $396.8 million last year.

Of the total transaction count this year, the contributions per region are as follow: Asia Pacific (42.5 percent), Middle East (23 percent), North America (15 percent) and Europe (11.5 percent).

In terms of dollar remittance value, Asia Pacific accounted for 33.4 percent while Europe came in second at 18.5 percent.

Total operating expenses including depreciation and amortization was higher by 22.9 percent to P172.18 million, from P140.05 million in 2006. *Elizabeth S. Lacson*

Landbank nets P3.53B

STATE-OWNED LAND BANK OF the Philippines yesterday reported a 31-percent growth in its net profit to P3.53 billion in the first nine months of the year from P2.7 billion a year ago.

Landbank president Gilda Pico said total revenue from loans, investments and other fee-based businesses during the period hit P18.4 billion.

Pico added that the bank was ahead of its January to September net income target of P2.9 billion. She said she was confident that the year-end target of P4 billion would be met.

"We are aggressively pursuing our commercial banking operations alongside our social mandate of financing major development initiatives in the countryside," Pico explained.

Landbank ranks among the country's top five banks with total assets expanding 17 percent to P371 billion from P317.5 billion at end-September 2006.

Capital also improved by 17 percent to P34.7 billion from last year's P29.6 billion. *Doris C. Dumlao*

CURRENCIES

November 19, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.681896	1.000000	43.3830
Japan	Yen	0.006147	0.009015	0.3911
United Kingdom	Pound	1.400682	2.054100	89.1130
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087639	0.128523	5.5757
Switzerland	Franc	0.609924	0.894454	38.8041
Canada	Dollar	0.700818	1.027749	44.5868
Singapore	Dollar	0.470143	0.689465	29.9111
Australia	Dollar	0.606130	0.888889	38.5627
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.815000	2.661698	115.4724
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.183059	0.268456	11.6464
Brunei	Dollar	0.468528	0.687096	29.8083
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000073	0.000107	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.021627	0.031716	1.3759
UAE	Dirham	0.185889	0.272606	11.8265
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.466500	63.6212
Korea	Won	0.000743	0.001090	0.0473
China	Yuan**	0.091829	0.134667	5.8423
Denmark	Kroner	0.134210	0.196819	8.5386
India	Rupee	0.017377	0.025484	1.1056
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.201894	0.296077	12.8447
New Zealand	Dollar	0.514366	0.754318	32.7246
Sweden	Kroner	0.108151	0.158604	6.8807
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021089	0.030927	1.3417

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 16, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 16, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 19, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	3,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	55	56	55	55.5	280,400
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	63.5	64.5	63	64.5	846,200
748	540	China Banking Corp.	700	700	690	690	1,460
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	230,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	54	55.5	53.5	55	3,594,800
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	44.5	44.5	43.5	43.5	172,800
39.57	20	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	25	25	24.5	24.75	173,500
80	61	Security Bank Corp.	70	70	70	70	5,100
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	43.5	44	43.5	44	440,500
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.92	1.92	3,001,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12	12	11.25	11.75	986,900
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	218,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	80
5	2.85	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.05	3.05	3	3	1,869,000
3.1	1.32	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	50,000
1,390.00	247	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,130.00	1,130.00	1,110.00	1,110.00	1,130
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,260.00	2,265.00	2,260.00	2,265.00	660
1.94	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.5	1.5	1.48	1.48	523,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	955,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60	60.5	60	60.5	567,100
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	72	72	68	69.5	1,385,900
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	16.25	16.5	16.25	16.5	672,100
105.45	27.73	Manila Electric Company	75	76	74	75.5	775,600
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	7.2	7.2	6.8	7.1	32,306,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	6.1	6.1	5.9	6	1,579,000
2.3	1.02	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp	1.7	1.74	1.64	1.66	6,592,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.1	5.1	5	5	539,000
2.32	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.78	1.78	24,000
6.6	2.24	Central Azucarera De Tarlac	3.4	3.45	3.4	3.45	12,000
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.5	11,200
3.55	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	34,000
80	50.5	San Miguel Corp. A	51	51	50.5	50.5	32,100
88	51.5	San Miguel Corp. B	53	53	51.5	52	44,300
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.9	6,000
20.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	446,300
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	60,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	EEI Corp.	5	5	4.9	5	122,000
21.5	6	Federal Res. Investment Group Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8	8	8	8	39,000
7	3.2	Republic Cement Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	100,000
2	0.71	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	1,764,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.25	4.25	4.2	4.25	485,000
2.4	1.31	Euro-Med Laboratories Phil. Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	34,000
1.34	0.82	Interphil Laboratories Inc. A	1	1	1	1	110,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc. B	1	1	1	1	150,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.4	9,530,000
9	7.6	Splash Corp	8.2	8.2	7.6	8.2	6,872,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	163,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.145	0.13	0.135	119,870,000
1.28	0.29	APC Group Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.61	0.61	760,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. A	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.8	180,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.0095	0.0095	11,000,000
9.7	5.8	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.6	6.8	6.5	6.8	1,051,000
39	18.75	ABS-CBN Holdings Corp. - PDR	33	35	33	35	50,200
0.021	0.009	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,100,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.1	5.3	5	5.3	36,759,000
1.38	0.56	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.79	0.88	0.79	0.88	500,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.5	2.55	2.48	2.5	6,925,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	580	585	575	580	57,380
5.8	1.64	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4	4	3.9	3.95	3,424,000
12	4.95	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.75	11	10.75	10.75	375,200
8	3.15	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.3	6.5	6.3	6.5	134,000
3.55	1.72	House of Investments Inc.	2	2	2	2	357,000
14.5	8.4	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.25	10.5	182,300
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.9	7.2	6.5	6.6	2,926,000
8.5	3	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	76,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. A	0.24	0.245	0.225	0.225	658,000,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	1,240,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	355	357.5	355	357.5	1,039,280
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	1,380,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	30,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,400,000
1.1	0.26	Zeus Holdings Inc	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	10,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Company Inc	1.52	1.54	1.52	1.54	286,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.3	7.6	7.2	7.2	17,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16	16.25	16	16	12,065,500
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	657,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.62	0.63	0.62	0.62	880,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.36	3,290,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.76	1,090,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	150,000
0.47	0.0575	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,800,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.98	0.99	0.98	0.98	760,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.68	1.69	1.66	1.66	6,134,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	840,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	3.95	4.05	3.95	4.05	9,608,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.6	687,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. - Warrants	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.4	1,156,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	310,000
0.87	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1,030,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.5	4,115,400
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	4	4	4	4	86,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	13,079,700
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc.	2.2	2.2	2.18	2.18	182,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.22	2.26	2.18	2.26	888,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,100,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5	5	4.95	5	19,007,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	31	33	100,400
12	7.9	GMA Holdings Inc	8.2	8.2	8.1	8.1	712,000
11.75	7.9	GMA Network Inc	8	8.1	7.9	8	396,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc	1.38	1.42	1.38	1.42	450,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,595.00	1,595.00	1,590.00	1,590.00	10,560
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,040.00	3,085.00	3,040.00	3,080.00	198,420
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.2	3,154,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.19	0.19	2,050,000
14.75	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	13.75	14.75	13.75	14.5	4,028,800
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	8.1	8.3	8.1	8.1	673,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	8,700,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. A	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	500
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	3.55	3.55	3.5	3.5	44,000
0.32	0.048	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.18	6,900,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.38	280,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	11,600,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.8	2.95	2.8	2.85	279,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	131,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	6,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39.5	40	39.5	40	2,427,600
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	50,000
2.04	1.06	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	60,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.48	250,000
1.16	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc	0.94	0.97	0.93	0.94	7,270,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.8	0.84	0.8	0.84	800,000
		EDUCATION					
9.8	7.2	Centro Escolar University	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	13,000
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	1,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2.04	Macroasia Corp	5	5	4.9	4.9	145,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	12	12	11.5	11.75	830,500
30	7	Paxys Inc.	8	8	7	7.3	1,466,000
150	22	Prime Gaming Philippines Inc	79	95	79	95	87,800
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.01	52,000,000
6.9	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	6.2	6.2	6	6	471,000
7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	55,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14	14.25	14	14.25	256,600
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. A	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	2,900
12.75	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10	10	9.7	9.7	128,000
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	2.02	2.06	1.94	1.94	19,228,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.51	0.55	0.5	0.54	294,270,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.54	0.58	0.54	0.58	87,610,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	357,400,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.032	0.033	0.031	0.032	50,100,000
30	2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21	21.5	19.75	19.75	850,200
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	158,000,000
	0.015	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	6,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	10	10	9.8	10	4,071,000
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	40	40	40	40	10,000
1.36	0.5	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.78	1,680,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.2	1.2	1.18	1.18	626,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.31	3,430,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	181,300,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.024	44,100,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	9.9	9.9	146,000
0.032	0.0095	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	132,400,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	885.81	UP	8.15	12,405,630	325,723,580.00
Industrial	4,275.49	UP	3.22	65,252,600	531,473,045.00
Holding Firms	2,075.90	UP	6.16	848,939,160	832,359,960.00
Property	1,634.89	UP	12.48	90,283,800	638,823,785.00
Service	1,840.45	UP	29.75	52,358,680	857,639,110.00
Mining & Oil	8,558.97	UP	139.77	1,388,134,700	338,820,935.00
All Shares Index	2,222.99	UP	12.69		
PSEI	3,645.22	UP	46.26		
		GRAND TOTALS		2,457,374,570	3,524,840,415.00

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SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

PNOC-EDC seen retaining government guarantees

Gov't raising fees to 2% per year up to 2010

By Abigail L. Ho

AHEAD OF THE COMPLETION OF PNOC Energy Development Corp.'s privatization by the end of this month, the Department of Finance has agreed to keep existing national government guarantees on the company's debts subject to certain conditions.

In a letter to PNOC-EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the government guarantees would "continue to have force and effect even after the complete divestment of (Philippine National Oil Co.'s) interest in PNOC-EDC.

There would be an increase, however, in the guarantee fee to be paid by PNOC-EDC to the national government from one percent per year to 2 percent, starting January 2008 to December 2010, Teves said.

This fee would be increased by 0.25 percent a year every year starting January 2011, he said. However, a cap of 5 percent was set.

The government's Privatization Council would have to agree to this arrangement.

In the same letter, Teves said the signing of a guarantee fee agreement between the DOF, in behalf of the Republic of the Philippines, and PNOC-EDC—which shall include, among others, a provision that PNOC-EDC will have the option to continue with the guarantee or to refinance the guaranteed loans—was also a condition.

The government is selling its remaining 60-percent stake in the company. Five groups have been prequalified to bid for this stake.

These are ACR-AEI Holdings Inc., FDC Geo-Energy Holdings Inc., AP Renewables, Red Vulcan Holdings Corp. and Panasia Energy Holdings Inc.

ACR-AEI Holdings is a joint venture between Alsons Consolidated Resources and AEI Investments Inc.

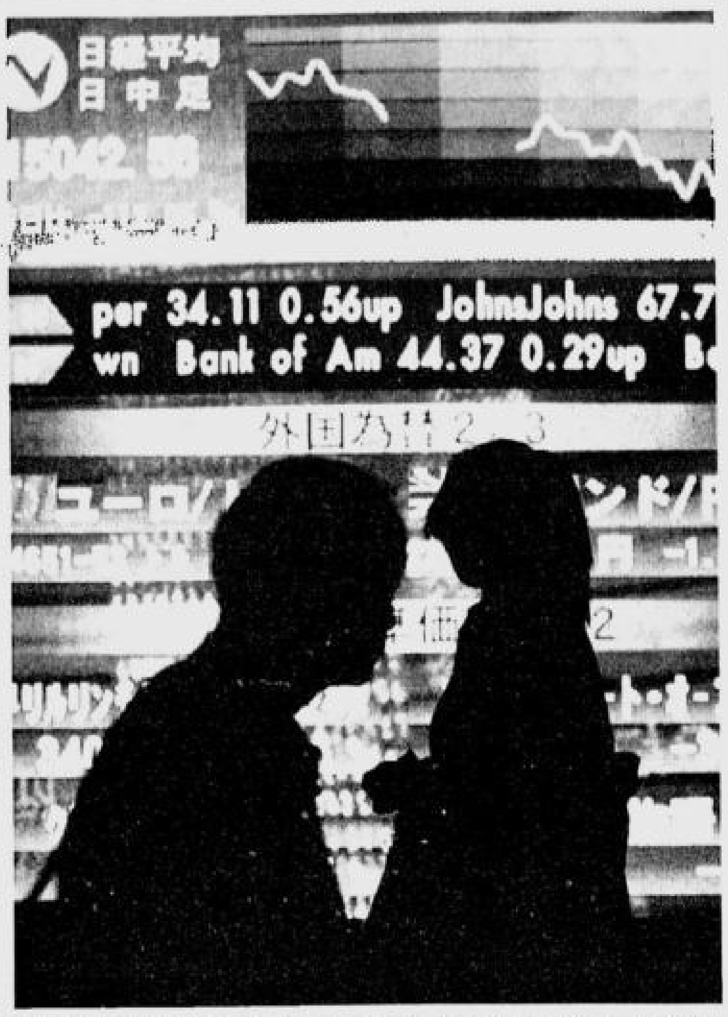
FDC Geo-Energy is a partnership between Filinvest Development Corp. and International Power Masinloc Holdings Inc.

Red Vulcan is a consortium composed of First Gen Corp., Spalmare Holdings BV and Prime Terracota Holdings Corp.

Panasia Energy is a partnership between San Miguel Energy Corp. and Beleggingsmaatchappij Broem BV, while AP Renewables is an Aboitiz Power Corp. company.

The five bidders have until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to submit their bids for the controlling stake in PNOC-EDC.

The notice of award would be issued to the winning bidder by Nov. 22. The full payment of the bid will have to be remitted to the government by Nov. 30, the scheduled closing date of the transaction.



PEOPLE stroll by an electronic board with stock update outside a securities firm in Tokyo yesterday. The Nikkei 225 average fell 112.05 points, or 0.74 percent, to close at 15,042.56 points in the Tokyo Stock Exchange. It was the Nikkei's lowest close since July 2006. AP

Palay output expected to post record growth

By Riza T. Olchondra

THE COUNTRY'S PALAY PRODUCTION could grow by a record 10 percent in the fourth quarter, according to the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice).

"It is possible and probable," said Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) rice program director Francisco Malabanan, concurrently PhilRice chief science research specialist, on Monday.

With total harvests hitting 9.8 million metric tons as of end-September, Malabanan said the production of another 6.4 million metric tons was possible.

Agriculture, which accounts for about a fifth of domestic economic output, saw all its sectors grow in the first nine months of the year despite a prolonged dry spell that affected the main island of Luzon.

According to Department of Agriculture data, palay output has increased by 3.5 percent at end-September while overall farm output rose 4.3 percent.

In the fourth quarter of last year, palay output reached 5.78 million metric tons.

If palay grows by 10 percent as Malabanan projected, the volume of production in the fourth quarter would reach 6.36 million metric tons.

This would enable the government to meet its whole-year target of 16.2 million metric tons.

Malabanan explained that the fourth quarter traditionally contributes the bulk of the yield per year.

Geograce Phils taps management firm

MINING COMPANY GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc. (Geograce) said it had signed a management services agreement with Geograce Management (Hong Kong) or GMHK for the provision of specialized management and technical services to the Philippine unit and its affiliates.

GMHK is headed by former Environment Secretary Michael Defensor (chair), who also served as chief of staff of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and Johan Raadsma (CEO).

Raadsma is a former director of banking and head of technical services unit of N. M. Rothschild & Sons (Australia) Limited based in Sydney. He was also regional manager for Philippine Gold Ltd., where he oversaw the 2Moz Masbate Gold Projects.

Raadsma, an Australian national, has more than 30 years of experience in mining, civil construction and resource development. He has directed and participated in startup projects worth US$15 million to $700 million.

He holds a bachelor degree in mining from the University of New South Wales and has significant work experience in the United States, Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia and West Africa.

DOF backs bill seeking tax cut on insurance

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE has agreed to endorse the bill seeking to cut the premium tax on life insurance policies from 5 percent to 2 percent.

Insurers believe such a measure will give the industry a big boost.

A Finance official said the endorsement was already made known to the Senate committee on ways and means, which is in the process of hearing the bill authored by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

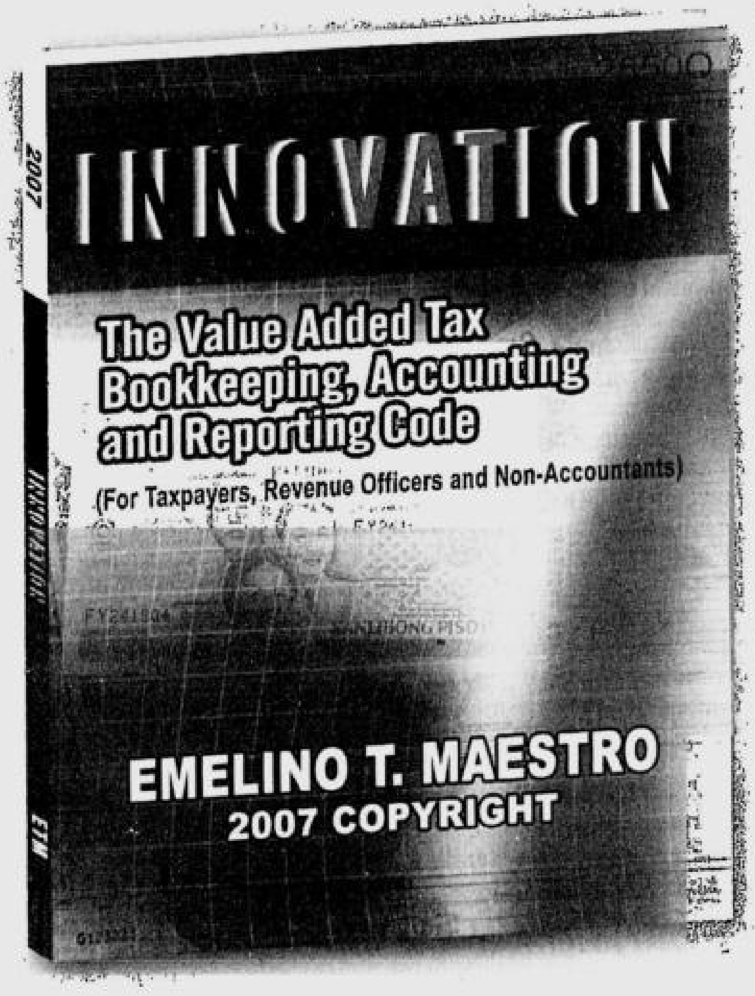
The official, however, said the DOF made it clear to the committee that the premium-tax cut should be implemented only after the government was able to balance its budget position, which was expected to happen next year.

According to DOF estimates, the bill, if approved, will result in foregone revenue of P1.2 billion a year for the government. The DOF's endorsement is expected to be welcomed by the Philippine Life Insurance Association Inc. (PLIA), which has been pushing for tax relief for the industry. Its earlier proposal, however, was to entirely lift the 5-percent premium tax, which is computed based on the gross amount of yearly premiums.

Also, PLIA proposed the scrapping of the documentary stamp tax on insurance products.

It noted that the Philippines was the only country in Southeast Asia that charges a premium tax.

"The current tax treatment puts Philippine life insurers at a disadvantage as their products become more expensive. In an industry critical to the long-term capital mobilization and formation needed to sustain economic growth, providing the needed tax relief will benefit the country over the long term," PLIA had said in a position paper submitted previously to the DOF.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AIM PREVIEW DATES

Metro Manila
November 29, 2007
January 31, 2008
February 28, 2008
March 28, 2008
April 3, 2008
May 7, 2008
June 18, 2008
July 17, 2008

Subic
February 21, 2008
Cebu
March 19, 2008
Davao
March 21, 2008
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BDO, Xoom ink partnership

BDO REMITTANCE AND XOOM Corporation announce its strategic partnership designed to mutually benefit the clients of both companies.

"We welcome Xoom to BDO. We believe that our increased capabilities brought about by the merger will help in driving more business to BDO and its partners. We look forward to working together in building the business and extending our reach to more remitters abroad through Xoom's service," said BDO transaction banking group head, Ismael G. Estela.

"We see a lot of opportunities through this partnership. BDO is highly differentiated compared to its competition and I look forward to a high volume and profitable relationship with the Bank," said John Kunze, president and CEO, Xoom Corp. "The merged institution is a powerhouse and has an exceptional remittance team. Moving forward, we expect the business to grow more than double while maintaining the excellent service and professionalism the bank has shown in the past."

Gene Gutierrez, Xoom's regional vice president for Asia Pacific and formerly based in Xoom headquarters in San Francisco, shall now be based here in the Philippines to oversee Xoom operations.

Through Xoom, remitters from abroad can easily send money online, anytime, without leaving their home or office. Money can be received within minutes, 7 days a week on extended banking hours through BDO's wide network of remittance channels like BDO branches, On-Site outlets and SM Forex counters in SM Dept. Stores and Hypermarkets.

Enabling
Innovating for a better banking experience

PHOTO shows the signing ceremonies last Sept. 13 at Amorsolo Room, Sign of the Anvil, BDO Makati. From left: Gene Gutierrez - XOOM regional VP for Asia Pacific, John Kunze - XOOM president and CEO, and Ismael G. Estela, SVP and head of BDO transaction banking group.

ACS OPENS 6TH SITE

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo led the ribbon cutting ceremony which formally opened the 6th call center facility of Advanced Contact Solutions at Araneta Complex, Cubao. Photo shows with President Arroyo (from left) ACS president and GM Victor M. Endaya, PGMA, ACS board chair Tarcisio M. Medalla, DTI Undersecretary Fernandez, Secretary Anthony Roxas-Chua, Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT).

MANG INASAL MAKATI AVENUE CORNER JUPITER NOW OPEN

Mang Inasal
Mang Inasal
Mang Inasal
Mang Inasal

Just recently, Mang Inasal Makati Avenue corner Jupiter Street opened its 42nd outlet with a tremendous response. Eager customers queue to grab a bite of Iloilo's pride and glory. The said outlet is open 24 hours in order to be of service to Makati residents, office workers and people in transit. The emergence of another Mang Inasal outlet is attuned to their company's vision that one day, they will be known as a leading barbeque chain. For more info of the Home of Pinoy - Style Barbeque, visit their website at www.manginasal.com.

TORM USHERS REMARKABLE BRAND OF COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION

Denmark-based shipping company A/S Dampskibsselskabet TORM translated its commitment in promoting education among young Filipinos as a key to a promising and bright future with the soft launching of the Torm Philippines Educational Foundation Inc on Nov. 12, during the Philippine Manning Convention 2007 at One Esplanade in Pasay City. Shown during the simple launching rites were (from left) Capt. Mikkjal Poulsen, general manager of Torm Singapore Pte; Capt. Alfonso Del Castillo, president of Torm Philippines; and Glenn Rosales, quality assurance manager of Torm Philippines. Flanking them at the back are the first four students who were granted scholarships by the foundation to pursue marine transportation and engineering courses starting school year 2008-09. Torm Philippines Educational Foundation aims to provide a total of 25 scholarships and each student scholar will have an allotment of P100,000 per year.

UNILAB TAPS CHRISTINE JACOB AS GROWEE ENDORSER

Pediatrica, Inc, a division of pharmaceutical giant United Laboratories Inc (Unilab) has tapped former Olympian, TV host and celebrity mother Christine Jacob as the new endorser of Growee children's growth supplement. At the signing ceremonies were (from left) Growee brand manager Tina Cruz, Pediatrica operations director Bobby Romero, Pediatrica marketing director Joey Peralta and Christine Jacob.

BITS Clips

GMA Noel Discovery Bazaar, Christmas Shop Expo

GET YOUR KIDS GEARED UP WITH UNIQUELY designed fashionable clothes as they enjoy the fun activities offered during the Christmas season. Made from high quality and child-friendly materials, these clothes will surely keep your babies warm throughout the winter-like Holiday celebrations in our tropical country. Whether it's for your new born baby or for your fast growing toddler, these clothes of all sizes, colors, styles and designs are exclusively available at GMA Network's Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shop Expo on Nov. 21 to 25 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Most importantly, feel the true Christmas spirit as bazaar proceeds from fashion auctions will help the beneficiaries of GMA Kapuso Foundation's Give-A-Gift Alay sa Batang Pinoy, the Bantayog ng mga Bayani Foundation and the Associate Missionaries of Assumption Foundation. This event is made possible by GMA Network, Seair, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Centrex, QTV, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Foreign Post, Summit Media, Barangay LS FM, Max 103.5, Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, Inquirer.net, Clickthecity.com and femalenetwork.com. The event will benefit the projects of GMA Kapuso, Bantayog ng mga Bayani And Associate Missionaries of the Assumption Foundation. For inquiries, Cut Unlimited may be reached through 687-0654 , 687-3292 or e-mail noelbazaars@gmail.com.

MROFI 9th Congress and GA

THE MORAL RECOVERY OFFICERS FOUNDATION INC WILL HOLD its 9th Congress and General Assembly on Nov. 29, at the Mabini Hall, Malacanang, Manila.

Mystical November with C2

C2 LIFE CONTINUES THE JOURNEY THIS LAST SATURDAY OF November to a holistic lifestyle with activities that nurture the intellect and enrich the spirit. On Nov. 24, C2 takes you to the mystical realm of the Tarot. Divination experts and Tarot card readers will help you uncloak your life's mysteries and foretell your destiny. This activity will be held at Powerbooks, in Greenbelt 3, Makati. The first two Saturdays of November treated C2 Life participants to fascinating events: a Jung Seminar on dream interpretation, which was held in Magnet Café; and a spine-tingling trip to the Chinese La Loma Cemetery. It's never too late to experience the C2 Life. In December, C2 Life celebrates a soul-enriching Christmas with weekly outreach events in cooperation with Hands-On Manila. A C2 Life card is your passport to all C2 Life events. Get the C2 Life card free with a purchase of any C2 Green Tea or C2 Green Tea Lite variant during C2 Life events. For more info, log on to www.thec2life.com.

Smart wireless consumer division head

DANILO "BONG" Mojica, head Of Smart Communications wireless consumer division, shares invaluable insights on how to mine the power of mobile advertising. As the texting capital of the world, and with over 50 million Filipinos actively subscribed today, mobile has become the single-most powerful platform for communicating directly with consumers on a personal level. At the Mobile Asia Congress held last week in Macau, China, Smart was awarded Best Mobile Advertising in the GSMA's Inaugural Asia Mobile Awards 2007. This is the third GSMA award for Smart, after Smart Money and Smart Load, and underscores the huge potential for innovation that mobile phones offer to the advertising community in the Philippines. The GSMA is the global trade association for mobile operators, and its citations are considered the Oscars of the mobile communications industry. Bong's extensive experience marketing consumer packaged goods, combined with his wealth of knowledge in the fast paced world of telco, put him in a unique position to share the depth and richness of consumer engagement when mobile is integrated effectively with advertising and promotions campaigns. Bong's career spans more than 20 years in the field of Sales and Marketing in industries such as consumer products and services both in local and global markets. At Smart, he heads the wireless consumer division, responsible for all commercial functions. He is also president and CEO of Wolfpac Inc, a director of Smart Communications Inc, director of Piltel, director of PLDT Global and a director of Smart Hub Inc. Recently, he has been assigned the task of managing Smart's Satellite related businesses.

Novartis helps young scientists develop careers in biotechnology

NOVARTIS, THE WORLD'S THIRD LARGEST pharmaceutical company, brought its corporate citizenship again to the fore when it recently held the Novartis International Biotechnology Leadership Camp in Tokyo, Japan. Forty-two young top class researchers, post-graduate, graduate and undergraduate students from 15 countries with some of the world's leading biotechnology experts from the industry, academe and government sector participated in the event.

"It's contributing to the communities we operate in. We want to help young talents understand the complex business dynamics of the biotechnology industry and prepare them for a potential career in this very exciting field," shares Stefan Ziegler, head of Novartis Asia Pacific.

Held at the prestigious Roppongi Academy Hills in Mori Tower, there were presentations, interactive Q&A, and workshop sessions were students-participants were able to network, exchange knowledge and expertise, develop new insights and collaborate on ideas for successful biotechnology business ventures. They also gained understanding on global innovation to trends in biotechnology as well as fusion of the biotechnology industry and business. Novartis hopes that these will plant the seeds of international cooperation and synergy for the future.

The three-day camp was jointly supported by the Novartis headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, and local Novartis companies. Novartis Pharma K.K. and Novartis Foundation (Japan) for the Promotion of Science jointly hosted the event aimed at advancing biotechnology in Asia and Europe by assisting in the development of professional capabilities among researchers eager to advance their global careers.

Notable scientific expert Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa, former Science Council of Japan president and professor emeritus of the University of Tokyo, spoke about innovation and the potential of biotechnology to advance medical knowledge and practice.

H. Robert Horvitz, winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology presented a lecture on "Cell Suicide: Programmed Cell Death in Development and Disease."

Presentations were also made by several Novartis leaders. Dr. Seigo Izumo of the Novartis Institute for Medical Research talked about "The Renin Inhibitor Aliskiren," the 2007 winner of the Wall Street Journal technology innovation award; Paul Herrling, head of corporate research, on National Institute for Tropical Diseases; Juergen Brokatzky-Geiger, head of human resources, on careers at Novartis, and; Reinhard Ambros on Novartis Venture Fund, which he heads.

Participants were also divided into groups and were asked to develop bio-venture plans which they presented to an audience who served as board of judges. Two teams were awarded for their business plans as well as excellent teamwork. The first team developed a business plan on an innovative drug to cure depression while another team was commended for their overarching collaborative spirit and sense of partnership. Five students were also cited for their outstanding individual contributions.

Philippine delegates

Carla Bianca Victorio, a Doctor of Philosophy student in Biology and Biotechnology at the University of the Philippines and Michael Bahrami-Hessari, a Master of Science in Microbiology student at the University of Santo Tomas were the official delegates of the Philippines for the camp.

The two were selected based on their credentials and had undergone strict interviews with Novartis' selection committees.

"Biotechnology has been the key in terms of life sciences, medicine, agriculture, and food products advancement. Experts believe it to be the solution for the growth of the national economy and global industries in the future," notes Peter Goldschmidt, president and CEO of Novartis Philippines Inc.

Cora Varona, Novartis Philippines compensation and human resources services manager and who oversees the selection process in the local BioCamp shares that "BioCamp is a truly unique initiative of Novartis. It supports the development of the biotechnology industry by bringing together young talents like Carla and Mike in the field."

"Novartis believes in the power of biotechnology. This is the prime reason why we're having this leadership camp. We wanted to address the need for wider dissemination of information on biotechnology as well as to support potential professionals in the field. We're delivering innovation and at the same time our objective is to treat more patients in the Philippines better!" adds Goldschmidt, talking about the company's strong belief in corporate citizenship.

Goldschmidt shares further that aside from post-graduate students of science-related courses, Novartis is now also tapping post-graduate business students realizing the vital role of these people in the pharmaceutical industry.

This year's participants came from Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Switzerland and Japan. BioCamp 2008 is scheduled to be held in Hong Kong.

Fortune Magazine recently ranked Novartis as "the most admired pharmaceutical company" for 2007 and is one of the 20 largest companies in the world by market capitalization. Its unique and diverse portfolio is aimed at meeting the changing global healthcare needs with its innovative medicines, high-quality and lost-cost generics, preventive vaccines and consumer health products.

Novartis also leads the way in innovation. It's No.1 in the industry for new drug approvals. Its research and development strategies are also focused on addressing the higher prevalence of chronic lifestyle diseases, increased demand from patients to cover unmet healthcare needs, healthcare access of emerging countries, and meeting the increasing medical needs of the aging population.

H. ROBERT Horvitz, winner of the 2002 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology and professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology joined the participants at the Novartis International BioCamp.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (BAC-GS) of the Supreme Court of the Philippines ("the Court") invites interested bidders qualified under Republic Act No. 9184 *(The Government Procurement Reform Act)* and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Project	Supreme Court Healthcare Services Project
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	**P27,243,917.00**
Pre-bid Conference	**November 27, 2007, Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. at the OCA Conference Room 2, 3rd Floor, Old Building Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**
Submission and Opening of Bids	The eligibility requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative, and the bids will be opened, thereafter, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, to be held on **December 4, 2007, Tuesday, 2:00 p.m. at the OCA Conference Room 2, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**
Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements with Technical and Financial Proposal Envelope	**December 4, 2007, Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. at the OCA Conference Room 2, 3rd Floor, Old Building, Supreme Court, Taft Avenue, Manila.**
Source of Funding	General Appropriations Act-2007
Contract Duration	One Calendar Year

2. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security, in the form and amount prescribed in the Instruction to Bidders. Late bids shall not be accepted.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in R.A. 9184 and its IRR. Only bids from bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Bids in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage to finally determine responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased, in cash, by interested bidders from the **Office of the BAC-GS Secretariat** starting **November 20, 2007 up to December 26,2007** at the address indicated below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00)**, prior to the conduct of pre-bid conference, the bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or its authorized representative. The Committee will only accept bids from bidders who have purchased the bidding documents from the office indicated below.
5. Prospective bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the BAC-GS or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.
6. The BAC-GS reserves the right to: (a) reject any or all bids; (b) waive any defect or formality in the bid requirements; (c) accept such bids as are deemed advantageous to the Court; (d) declare a failure of bidding; and (e) make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

November 15, 2007.

Office of the Secretariat
BAC-GS
Office of Assistant Court Administrator Nimfa C. Vilches
Supreme Court of the Philippines
Taft Avenue cor. Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila 1000
Contact Person: Ms. Evangeline D. Reyes
Tel. No. 523-1301

(Sgd.) **NIMFA C. VILCHES**
Assistant Court Administrator &
Chairperson, BAC-GS

(PDI - Nov. 20, 2007)

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Frontel Corporation, a fast-growing outbound call center firm located in Makati City, seeks to recruit high caliber and vibrant professionals for the positions of Outbound Tele-Salesmen to be based in Makati City.

Outbound Tele-Sales

Successful candidates will be part of a team responsible for handling and servicing partners as well as institutional clients. The post will require competitive sales people to sell our top online eBusiness platforms and convert leads into deals thru phone.

The requirements

- 3-5 years relevant experience including experience from banking, insurance, mortgages, car sales etc.
- Excellent work ethics and with high sense for responsibility
- You must come from the outbound phone sales background.
- Strong sales orientation
- Extrovert and self-starter
- Persistent, systematic with a strong change orientation
- Fluency in English. Knowledge of German, Russian, French or Arabic will be considered an advantage

Remuneration

An attractive remuneration package including performance related pay will be offered to the successful candidates according to qualifications and experience.

Basic Pay:
Ph P 30,000 +++ /Month

Bonus:
Ph P 5,000 /Sale

Interested applicants should e-mail their CV (Microsoft Word) to the Head of the Human Resource Services Department (quoting the reference number 192/HRS/07) at:
hr@frontel.net

Deadline of submission is on 23 November 2007, 12:00 PM (Manila Time).

Frontel Corporation
Unit 708 Tower1, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
Telephone Number: +632 473 4953

For Inquiries, look for Mr. Melan Valentin

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
KAGAWARAN NG KATARUNGAN
PANGASIWAAN SA PATALAAN NG LUPAIN
(LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY)
East Avenue cor. NIA Road, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Delivery of Desktop Computers and Notebook (PC) Computers

The Land Registration Authority (LRA), through FY 2007 General Appropriations Act (GAA) R.A. 9401 intends to apply the sum of **PESOS: TWO MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND (P2,400,000.00)** and **PESOS: ONE MILLION SIX HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P1,650,000.00)** being the Approved Budgets for the Contract (ABC) for the delivery of 80 units Desktop Computers and 30 units Notebook (PC) Computers respectively, to payments under the contract for the delivery of the above stated equipment to the Land Registration Authority (LRA) located at LRA Building, East Avenue corner NIA road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Land Registration Authority now invites eligible Bidders for the delivery of:

A. **80 Desktop Computers with the following specifications:**
- Branded
- Intel Core 2 Duo E2 series (minimum 1.6 Ghz, 1Mb L2 Cache and 800Mhz FSB)
- 80 Gb HDD
- 512 MB RAM
- 1.44 MB Floppy Disk Drive
- DVD ROM Drive
- Modem
- Keyboard
- Mouse
- XP Professional
- 15" LCD Monitor
- Anti-virus software installed
- Warranty: 3 years on parts and services

B. **30 Notebook (PC) Computers (Branded) with the following specifications:**

• Classification	Branded Computer Notebook
• Processor	Minimum Core 2 Duo Processor T7 series (min 1.8 Ghz)
• System Graphics	Intel Graphics Media Accelerator (Minimum X3000 series)
• Total Memory	Minimum 1 GB
• Hard Drive	Minimum 120 GB
• Optical Drive	8X DVD+/-R/RW
• Wireless Cards	Intel/PRO/Wireless
• Battery	6Cell Lithium Ion
• Operating System	Windows Vista Business Anti Virus
• Accessories	Optical Mouse Carrying Bag
• Warranty	3 years on Parts and Services

Delivery of said Desktop Computers and Notebook (PC) Computers shall be within thirty (30) working days from receipt of approved purchase orders. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorship, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to Filipino citizen, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for eligibility check is described in Section II of the bidding documents ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Land Registration Authority and inspect the Bidding documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on November 23, to November 28, 2007 from the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Land Registration Authority will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties at the 5th Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, LRA Building on the following schedules:

PARTICULAR	DATE	TIME
Delivery of 80 Desktop Computers (Branded)	November 29, 2007	10:00 A.M.
30 Notebook (PC) Computers (Branded)	November 29, 2007	2:00 P.M.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the 5th Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, LRA Building on the following dates and time:

PARTICULAR	DATE	TIME
Delivery of 80 Desktop Computers (Branded)	December 11, 2007	10:00 A.M.
30 Notebook (PC) Computers (Branded)	December 11, 2007	2:00 P.M.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form and amount indicated in the Bidding Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be at the 5th Floor, Multi-Purpose Hall, LRA Building on the dates and time below:

PARTICULAR	DATE	TIME
Delivery of 80 Desktop Computers (Branded)	December 11, 2007	10:00 A.M.
30 Notebook (PC) Computers (Branded)	December 11, 2007	2:00 P.M.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address above.

The Land Registration Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) EDILBERTO R. FELICIANO
Chairman, LRA Bids and Awards Committee on
Procurement of Goods, Supplies and Materials
East Avenue corner NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Telefax No. 921-2164 and 925-6573
Telephone No. 921-1383 (BAC Secretariat)

(PDI – November 20, 2007)

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JOB Market
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"Don't measure life in terms of years –
life acquires meaning when it touches with feeling another's life."
– Sedfrey

SEDFREY A. ORDOÑEZ

September 01, 1921 – November 18, 2007
Peacefully joined our Lord at the age of 86.

Constitutional Convention Delegate, 1971
Solicitor General, 1986
Secretary of Justice, 1987–1989
Ambassador to the United Nations, 1990–1992
Chairman, Commission on Human Rights, 1992–1995
Chairman, Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, Inc., 1996-2007
Chairman, Construction Industry Arbitration Commission, 1998–2007
Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan
Author and Poet

His loving wife, **Josefina Vijandre Ordoñez**, children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Roberto & Dulce Maglaya
Rina & Lito Hubilla, Danielle
Jake & Leilani Leal, Heather

Philip & Josefina Juan
Pocholo
Ingrid & Duvell Vaughan, Isabella

Cristina & Nestor Hernandez
Ramon, David

Helen & Victor Hernandez
Patricia, Katrina, Gabriel

His brothers and sisters, **Socorro (†)**, **Alfonso (†)**, **Pacita (†)**, **Genoveva**, **Marcelo (†)**, **Mario (†)**, **Isabel** and **Erlina**; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law; nephews and nieces, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Papa's remains lie in state at Sanctuarium, 739 G. Araneta Ave., near Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 22, 2007 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

ANGEL N. JUAREZ

Retiree of Distribution
United Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on November 17, 2007 at the age of 66.

His body lies in state at Chapel A, Holy Garden Memorial Park, Angono, Rizal. Interment to be announced later.

Death Notice

ELISEO C. LORENZANA
Jan. 29, 1913 - Nov. 18, 2007
Peacefully passed away on November 18, 2007 at the age of 94.
His body lies at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Chapel (near Antipolo Church), Antipolo Rizal. Interment will be on Nov. 23, 2007.

ENGR. CESAR A. BANDONILLO

Peacefully joined our Lord on November 18, 2007 at the age of 69.

His bereaved wife Tita; daughters and in-laws Clarise & Renvo Tuazon, Cielo & Eric Barcelon and Theda & Dennis Castro; grandchildren Louise, Cholo, Denise, Charlize, Elleia and Juan; brothers Rolly and Peping; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, November 22, 2007 after the 8:00 A.M. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

"And... I will dwell in the House of the Lord... Forever."
Psalm 23

UNAIDS announces the following vacancy.

Post - Country Coordinator (UNAIDS Country Office)

Level of post - NOD
Type of contract - Fixed term
Location - Manila, Philippines
Duration - 2 years with possibility of extension (subject to the availability of funding)

UNAIDS is an equal opportunity employer - qualified women are encouraged to apply.
Applications from people living with HIV are particularly welcome.

For further details and application guidelines, please visit **www.undp.org.ph**

Applications should be sent by close of business on Friday, 30th November 2007, to Mr. Geoff Manthey, Operations Manager a.i. Regional Support Team, UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and Pacific, Ninth Floor, A Block, United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Nok Avenue, Pranakorn, Bangkok 10200 THAILAND;
Fax: +66 2 288 1092; Email - **mantheyg@unaids.org**

More Classified Ads

DOLE-NCR A8
Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board A8
UP Systems Supply & Property-A A8
UP Systems Supply & Property-B A8
Western Visayas Medical Center A8
Ilocos II Electric Coop. Inc. A20
Foster Parents Plan, Inc. A20
Phil-Health A20
Victor Navarro – HLURB A20
Victor Navarro – HLURB A20

"For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
Matthew 11:30

SALUD ABELEDA LUNA

of Pagsanjan, Laguna & Kamuning, Q.C.

Peacefully joined her Creator on November 16, 2007 at the age of 102.

Her loving children **Ross & Conchita Bayutas**; **Alita & Marcial Abad (†)**; **Alicia & Melanio Gines**; **Alma & Theadis Wells**; grandchildren: **Menchu, Reuben, Cynthia, Christine & Monching Luna**; **Edgar, Edwin, Mayette, Eileen Abad**; **Cristina, Emanuel, Cecile & Machel Gines** and great grandchildren, nephews & nieces and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 107 K-2nd St., Kamuning, Quezon City.

Interment will be on November 24, 2007, Saturday at Himlayang Pilpino after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Sacred Heart Parish Church, Kamuning, Quezon City.

We remember and pray for the eternal rest of the soul of our dear

ILLUMINADA "LUMING" S. BERNARDO

on her 8th Death Anniversary
on November 21, 2007.
Masses for the repose of her soul will be offered
in the following churches:

6:00 a.m.
Sta. Clara, Quezon City
Lourdes Church, Quezon City
San Jose de Trozo, Manila
Pink Sisters Convent (New Manila), Quezon City
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City

7:00 a.m.
Mt. Carmel Church, Quezon City
St. Anne (Hagonoy)
Our Lady of Sorrows

BUSINESS

Individual income tax take hit ₱102.1B in Sept.

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE collected P102.13 billion in income tax from individuals in the first nine months of the year, up 5 percent from the P97.29 billion collected in the same period last year.

The BIR attributed the higher tax take partly to the improvement in the economy.

The Department of Finance, mother agency of the BIR, earlier said the better-than-expected performance of the economy should naturally lead to higher aggregate income and therefore an increase in tax collection.

The latest individual income tax collection, however, fell short of the government's target of P109.37 billion by P7.2 billion.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran earlier said tax collection was increasing, but not in step with the growth of the economy, because the BIR still needed to improve efficiency in tax collection.

Of the individual income tax collected as of September, only P5.2 billion was contributed by professionals and other self-employed individuals.

This was P5 billion short of the target of P10.2 billion and even P4.2 billion lower than the P9.39 billion collected in the same period last year.

On the other hand, fixed-income earners, or those employed by companies, contributed P86.26 billion in income tax to the government in January to September.

This was short of the P86.97-billion goal, but higher than the P77.05 billion collected in the same period last year.

Income tax collected from individuals who sold real properties amounted to P2.56 billion, short of the P3.8-billion goal and lower than the P3.59 billion collected in the same period last year.

Income tax withheld by clients from self-employed individuals serving as suppliers reached P8.1 billion, slightly short of the P8.2-billion goal but higher than the P7.26 billion collected in the same period last year.

The BIR has been urged to intensify efforts to improve auditing, especially of income taxes.

Last year, according to DOF estimates, the government lost close to P107 billion in potential revenues due to income tax leaks.

Export earnings from niche coco products up

By Ronnel W. Domingo

EXPORT EARNINGS FROM NICHE COconut-based products reached some $3.66 million (about P160 million) in July this year, according to the United Coconut Associations of the Philippines.

Ucap data showed that nine nontraditional coconut exports earned at least $100,000 or P4.4 million each last July.

The top earner was glycerin, an ingredient in home-made and commercial beauty products.

Glycerin exporters earned $1.18 million from shipments totaling 1,805 metric tons in July.

Top buy was Japan, which took half of the total, followed by the United States, South Korea and New Zealand.

Nata de coco came second with $487,558 from sale of 684 MT, up by 4,6 percent in volume.

Traditional biggest buyer Japan took in 58 percent of the cargo while significant volumes went to Malaysia, Vietnam, Hong Kong and South Korea.

Third was virgin coconut oil with $400,485 from delivery of 151 MT, almost thrice the volume shipped out in the same month last year.

Canada overtook the United States as main destination while the rest of the shipments went to United Arab Emirates and five other countries.

Liquid coconut milk was fourth with $399,046 in earnings from 329 MT, which was more than triple the volume sent out in July last year.

The United States was the top buyer.

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6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
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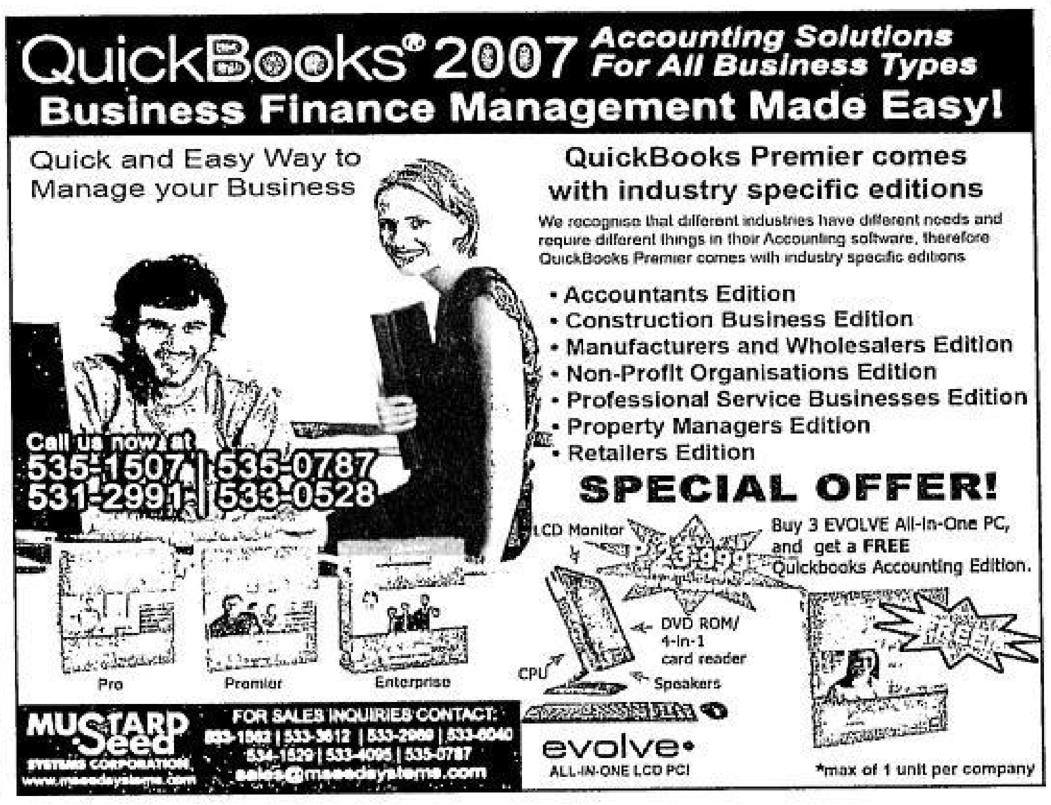

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IN THIS ISSUE
Avoid the extra pounds this Christmas /D1

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INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Staying sane and sexy

IN THIS CRAZY world, the pace of living has become hectic. As a result, not only life, but also our sanity, spins out of our reach.

Managing madness

Believe it or not, this world is not what it appears to be. At first glance, life may seem to be static, stationery. But a closer look at subatomic space reveals a new reality—atoms seem to move randomly but there is order in this randomness.

Awareness of this truth can be liberating. If we follow this thinking, it is OK to be a little crazy. Question is, how far will you allow madness to rule your life.

If you feel that craziness has overtaken you, it is time to take control.

Welcome change

The daily grind of living can rob you of spontaneity. So try something different today. You could reinvent yourself, remodel your surroundings or simply change the color of your hair or your outlook.

Remember, life is about perception. If you see dark, dreary colors, then that is how you will paint your life. And that is exactly what you will attract.

Be comfortable with silence. Surrounding yourself with music/sounds, noise and the chatter of people may at first be appealing and fun. But nothing compares to the eloquence of silence.

Close your eyes. Be still. Shut out the noise. Breathe slowly, deliberately. Journey towards the waters of calm. There is a lake of placid stillness inside every heart. Find it and connect with the source of calm—God.

Grant yourself permission to be happy. A major stumbling block in achieving your goal is reluctance on your part.

Start now. Say to yourself, "Life's blessings are mine because I deserve them. Not yesterday, not tomorrow but today."

Change your inner clock by living your life "now." Do not be anxious about tomorrow or regret the past. Let today be a glorious celebration.

Start by thanking the sun for rising, the stars for shining, the birds for chirping in St. Francis of Assisi style.

Take ownership. Instead of saying "I will be happy, healthy, wealthy" or whatever you wish, declare instead "I am happiness, health, wealth." Assume your aspirations are reality in you.

Watching the waistline

Sure, it is challenging to fit into your favorite 10-year-old pair of jeans. But it is not impossible. To turn it into a possibility:

1. Eat everything you want but in small amounts. Studies show that restricting your calorie intake to five to eight small meals a day will lead to weight management and eventually weight less.

Also, do not eat close to bedtime. The additional calories will not be burned by your body.

2. Bulk up by adding more fiber to your meals. Increase vegetables/fruits intake. Or add fiber food supplements to your juice like coco opsylium.

3. Practice the law of balance. Declare no-sugar days. This allows you to have your sweets in a regulated regimen. Example: If you feel you overdid desserts today, then tomorrow take no sweets.

4. Raise your glass to toast life, but it should be a healthy beverage. If you begin your day with freshly made vegetable/fruit juice, your energy levels are boosted beyond measure. This is also a sure way to lose weight.

5. Burn whatever calories you can so keep moving. Remember it is better to run, dance, jog, climb/walk, stand rather than just sit and lie around.

6. Time management is vital. Reserve at least 30 minutes to one hour a day for any form of physical activity—even if it is just house cleaning, moving furniture, gardening, walking the dog or walking up the office building's stairwell. Any activity is better than none.

7. Choose a favorite wall at home or office to do your pushups and a chair to do your arm pushups.

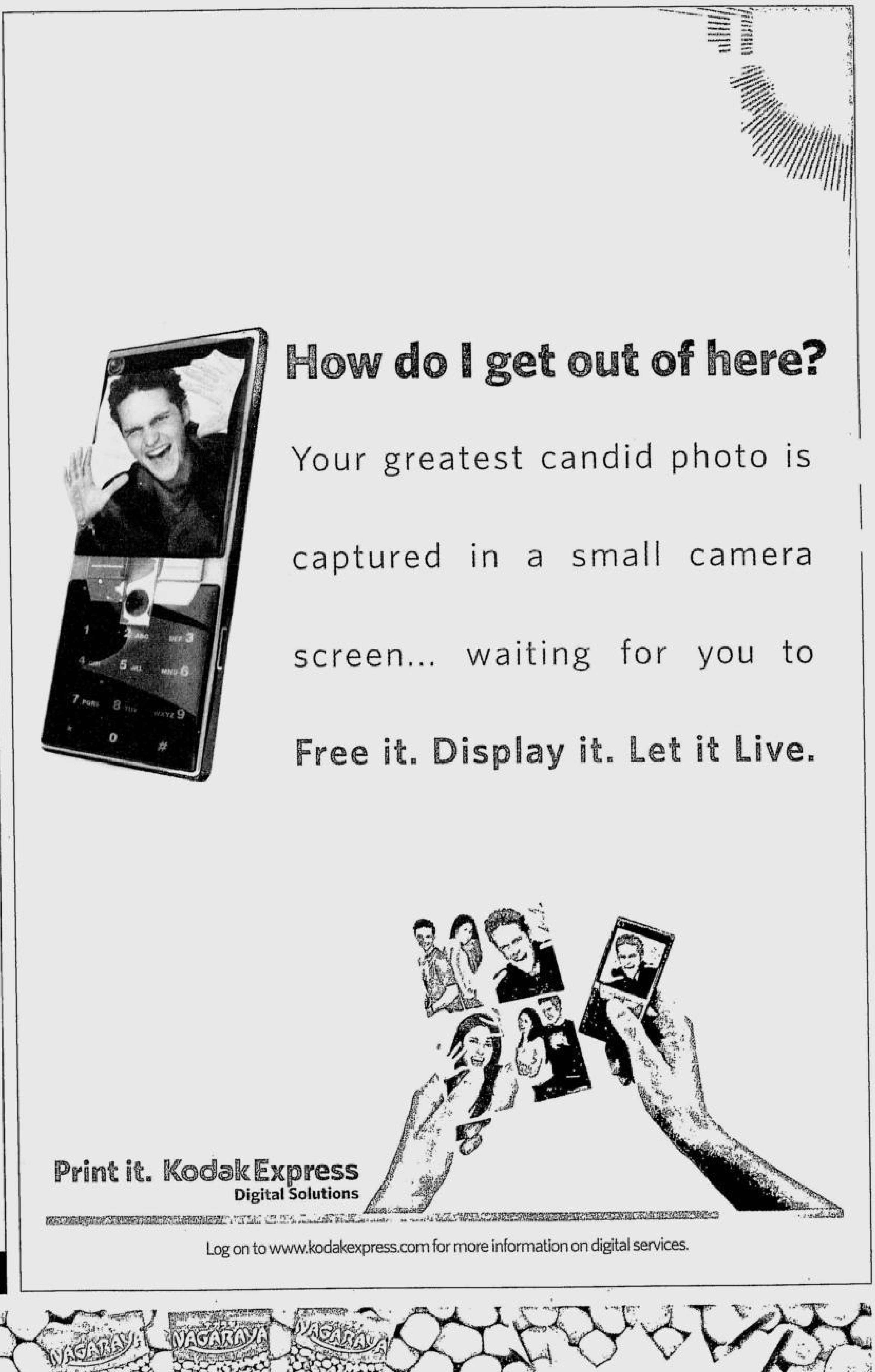
Reward yourself

You are special, therefore consider yourself a very important person. Lift yourself up and let no one oppress, depress, repress you. You are not a victim but a victor.

So, today, reward yourself by doing something special for yourself. Buy yourself a gift, sing a favorite tune or simply soak in a bath with milk and rose petals, salt and coconut oil, beer and honey, orange peel.

Life is cause for celebration so stay sane and sexy.

Love and light!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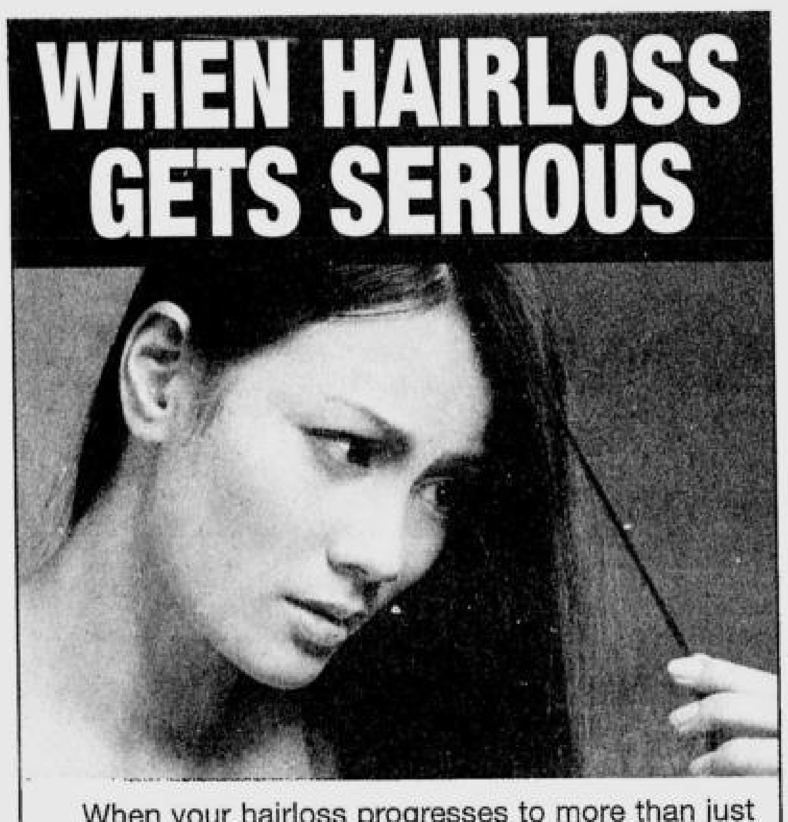
WHEN HAIRLOSS GETS SERIOUS

When your hairloss progresses to more than just a few hairs now and again, take it seriously. Call Svenson urgently for a no-cost hair and scalp analysis. Find out why you're losing hair and what can be done.

There are many causes - from poor diet, stress, smoking (or stopping smoking) - to hormonal imbalance, vitamin deficiency, styling chemicals and hair dyes. Most are treatable - you can look forward to much healthier, much thicker hair.

Thinning hair not only makes you look older, it can make you feel self-conscious, depressed and insecure. Take it seriously, call the hairloss experts now.

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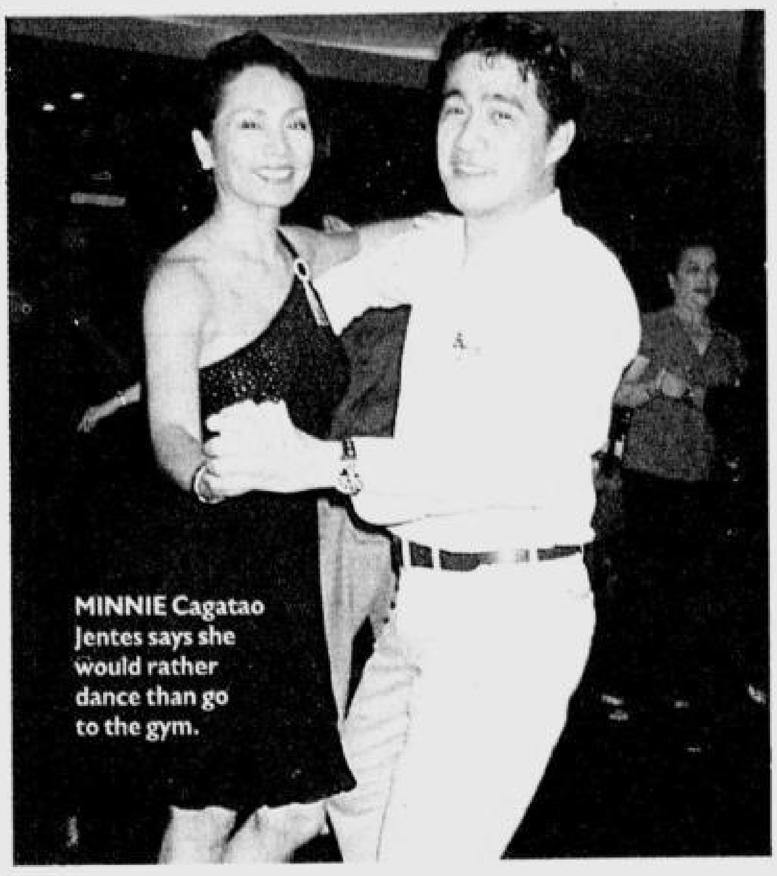
Dancing beauty queens


MINNIE Cagatao Jentes says she would rather dance than go to the gym.

MINNIE CAGATAO JENTES AND Aurora Pijuan were beauty queens when title holders were not just beautiful but articulate and intelligent as well.

Pijuan, a dusky *mestiza*, was Miss International 1971 while Jentes, an Asian beauty with porcelain skin, represented the Philippines in the 1970 Miss World competition.

Pijuan and Jentes are both overachievers with many different interests.

Pijuan is a mother, grandmother, marketing person, financial whiz, Gawad Kalinga supporter and advocate, erstwhile politician, among other things.

Jentes, a restaurateur and entrepreneur, owns the Schwarzwalder Restaurant and is also an online associate travel agent of GT-Trends. The mother of two is also a cancer survivor.

The two women have one more thing in common. They try to lead healthy and active lifestyles, eating sensibly and exercising regularly.

Jentes plays golf and dances at Bykes Cafe at least once a week. She says she would rather dance than go to the gym, which is boring.

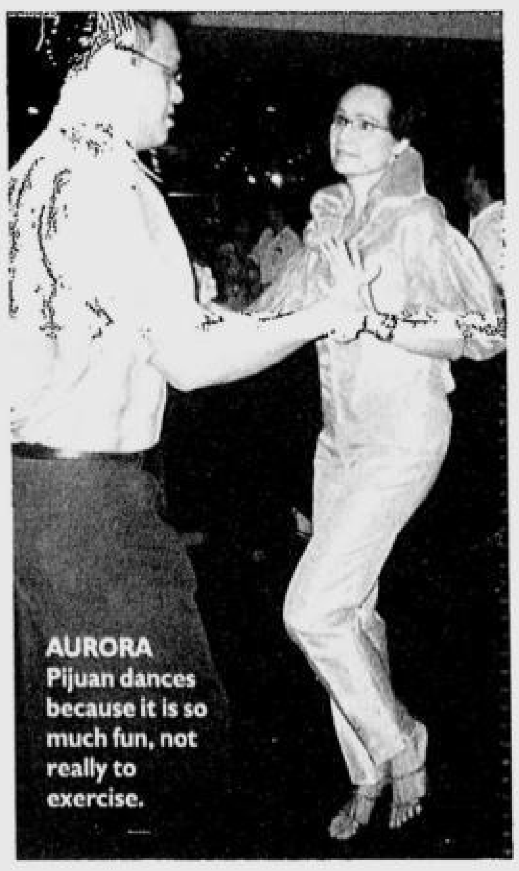
Pijuan tries to go dancing at Bykes every week though she does not really think of ballroom dancing as exercise.

While it keeps her weight down, Pijuan dances because she finds it so much fun.

What she likes about Bykes Café is that the dance instructors are tall so she does not look weird dancing with someone shorter. Pijuan says Bykes has good live bands and really excellent service.

Jentes likens going to Bykes to attending a social event. She meets friends, there is a band and the place is nicely appointed. She notes that the interiors were done by Budji Layug.

Bykes Café Dance Studio is at the La Fuerza Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. cor. Sabio St., Makati. Call 7500622, 7500623 or 0916-3862303.


AURORA Pijuan dances because it is so much fun, not really to exercise.

Living the organic life

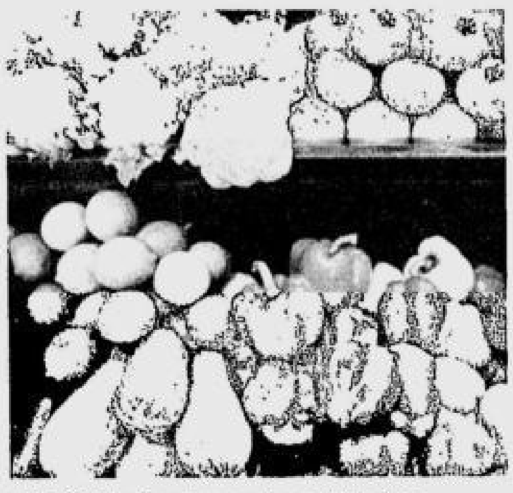
ANTEL SPA RESIDENCES (ASR) IN Makati makes healthy living the core of modern condo dwelling with its conveniently integrated organic market and restaurant.

Located on ASR's ground floor, the organic market features a vast selection of garden-fresh and pesticide-free harvests.

The upscale gourmet restaurant turns the raw ingredients into healthful and tasty recipe for overall wellness.

Aside from the organic market and restaurant, guests and future tenants can also enjoy the tower's wellness amenities and services including the Wellness Academy features personalized health and exercise programs and the latest fitness trends (calisthenics, Pilates, yoga, kickboxing and fusion of fitness exercises); a variety of body and beauty treatments (a fully equipped fitness gym, upscale beauty and medical clinics, alternative healing and detoxification, his/hers sauna and massage rooms); and unique recreation facilities (a nature trail, 25-meter spa pool and kiddie spa pools with jet stream and imported bamboo canopies, and a junior Olympic-sized pool).

At ASR, residents do not have to go out to avail of services and amenities to pursue their own health and wellness programs. The Antel Venue Lounge is at 5343 Gen. Luna St. cor. Makati Ave., Makati. Call 8968888 or visit www.antel.com.ph.


SAVOR the freshness of pesticide-free harvests at Antel Spa Residences organic market.

Reuse to save the environment

HEALTHY OPTIONS, THE RETAIL chain of stores offering all-natural products, supports the campaign to protect the environment with its "It bag"—the reusable shopping tote bag.

It asks customers to "choose to reuse" as part of its campaign "Saving the Planet without Costing the Earth."

Customers are encouraged to get the all-cotton, durable, bleach-free canvas tote for only P50.

Healthy Options, led by Romy Sia, managing director, is promoting the use of reusable bags to reduce dependence on plastic bags that can take up to 500 years to degrade.

In the United States alone, 100 billion plastic bags are used annually, the energy equivalent of 12 million barrels of oil.

Each high-quality reusable bag will eliminate hundreds to thousands of plastic bags over its lifetime.

Customers who "choose to reuse" will find that the Healthy Options reusable bag can conveniently carry a wide assortment of items, from personal-care products to supplements.

Get the Healthy Options "choose to reuse" shopping bag and help save the planet.

Healthy Options has branches in major malls. Visit www.healthyoptions.com.ph.

MODELS Mikee Carrion, Bubbles Paraiso, Isabel Roces and Grace Tagle shops with the "Choose to Reuse" bags in Healthy Options Trinoma.

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DR.MARION Isip-Enriquez and Dr.Nancy Reyes-Grey

Design your own smile

A SMILE MEANS MORE than just a cheerful disposition. It signifies optimism and confidence.

So the Makati-based Winning Smiles Dental Clinic that opened in 2004 is committed to bringing out winning smiles in its patients.

The clinic's dental team that includes founder Dr. Marion Isip-Enriquez and Doctors Nancy Reyes-Grey and Gregorio Doronila, provides a wide range of dental treatments and services while ensuring a highly personalized level of care.

At the Winning Smiles Dental Clinic, the rule is "your smile, your style." The dentists offer patients the unique opportunity of doing their smile design. Patients can decide on how their smiles will look for the rest of their lives.

The experts can change the contours of the teeth, even change their color to make them look the way the patient wants.

The clinic makes available dental veneers to improve the look of the teeth. Dental veneers are custom-made shells placed on the front surface of the teeth to improve their appearance.

The veneers can change the teeth's color, size, shape or length. They are also recommended for treating discolored teeth, tooth gaps, chipped or broken teeth, and misaligned teeth.

For a whiter smile, the clinic also provides bleaching. The Power Bleach uses high-intensity blue light that makes the teeth up to 10 shades lighter with just one dental visit.

The Tray System whitens the teeth gradually throughout the course of the treatment and can be done at home.

The clinic's Hollywood Smile treatment package is a combination treatment of bleaching and veneers.

The Winning Smiles Dental Clinic is at Suite 10, L/GF, Cityland III, V.A. Rufino St., Legazpi Village, Makati. Call 8928189 or visit winningsmiles.rxpinoy.com.

Mystics and quantum. . .

From page C4

picture. It is identical with the whole and therefore cannot be contained in it as part of it." (Schrödinger, physicist)

4. " ...All phenomena and their development are simply manifestations of mind, all causes and effects, from great universes to the fire dust only seen in the sunlight, come into apparent existence only by means of the discriminating mind. Even open space is not nothingness." (Suringama Sutra, mystic)

5. "Pure logical thinking cannot yield us any knowledge of the empirical world; all knowledge of reality starts from experience and ends there. Propositions arrived at by purely logical means are completely empty of reality." (Einstein, physicist)

6. "As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain, and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality." (Einstein, physicist)

7. "Vaccha asked the Buddha: Do you hold that the soul of the saint exists after death?

"I do not hold that the soul of the saint exists after death."

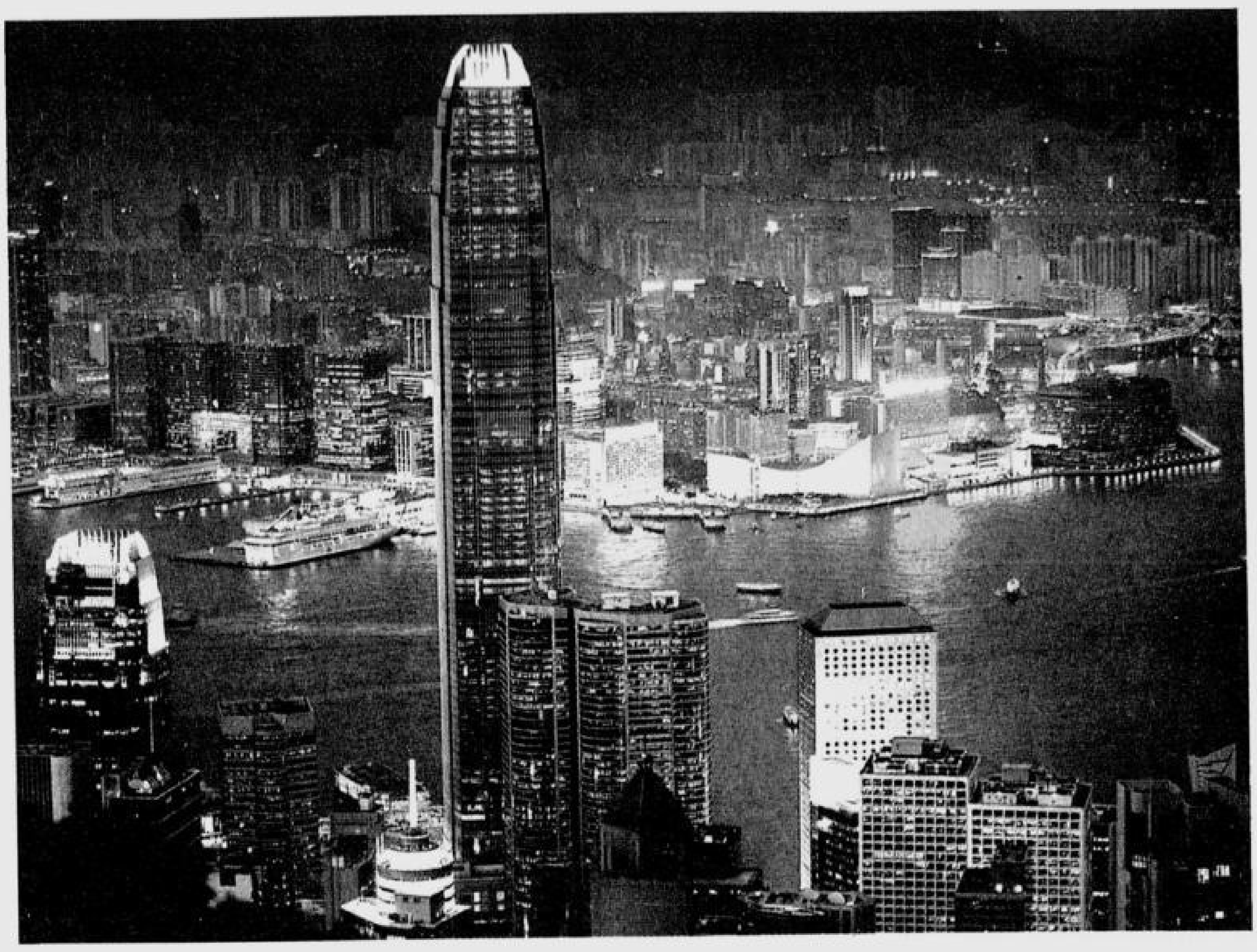
"Do you hold that the soul of the saint does not exist after death?

"I do not hold that the soul of the saint does not exist after death."

"Where is the saint reborn?

"To say that he is not reborn would not fit the case." (Majihima—Nikaya Sutra, mystic)

8. "If we ask, for instance, whether the position of the electron remains the same, we must say no; if we ask whether the electron's position changes with time, we must say 'no'; if we ask whether the electron is at rest, we must say 'no'; if we ask whether it is in motion we must say 'no.'" (J.R. Oppenheimer, physicist)



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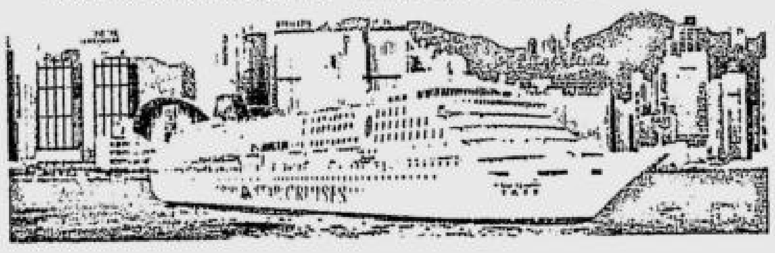

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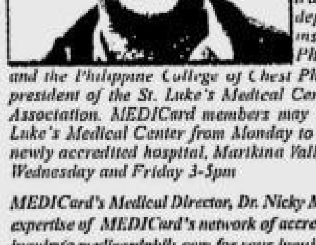
Take Charge Doc!

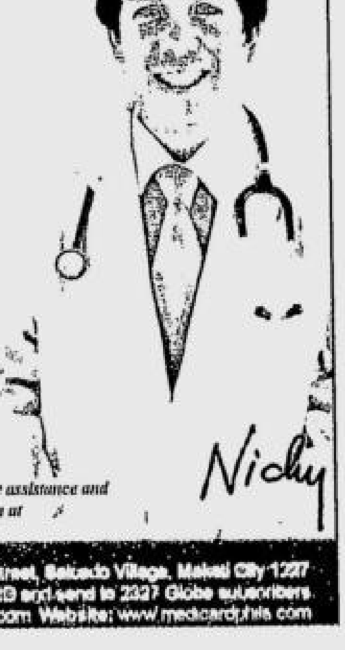
What is the management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease?

Management of COPD would be divided into two parts: Reduction of risk factors and Medical intervention. Smoking cessation is the single most effective and cost effective way of reducing the risk and progression of the disease process. Reduction of exposure to all the other environmental risk factors is also important in reducing the risk and progression of the disease. COPD is treated depending on the severity of the disease. Major pharmacologic players in the treatment of COPD would be your bronchodilators usually in the form inhalers or nebulizing solutions and your glucocorticosteroids also usually in the inhaled form, but intravenous and oral preparations are also used depending on the severity and presentation of the disease. Pulmonary rehabilitation has been proven to be an effective non pharmacologic tool in the treatment of COPD. It improves exercise capacity, reduces perception of breathlessness, improves quality of life, reduces number of hospitalizations and length of hospital stay and reduces depression and anxiety.



This week's answer to our feature question was provided by our accredited Pulmonologist, Dr. Rizal Alberto Nolido Jr. Dr. Nolido, a medicine graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas, finished his residency training for Internal medicine and his subspecialty for Pulmonology in St. Lukes Medical Center where he later became a member of the training committee of the department of Medicine of the said institution. He is a fellow of both Philippine College of Physicians and the Philippine College of Chest Physicians. He is also the current president of the St. Luke's Medical Center Institute of Medicine Alumni Association. MEDICard members may avail for his consultations at St. Luke's Medical Center from Monday to Friday 9am to 12 noon or at our newly accredited hospital, Marikina Valley Medical Center every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3-5pm

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.



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Your Doctor Knows Best

Aileen S. David-Wang, MD, MSc, FPCP, FPCCP

Question:

I just found out I have COPD after smoking cigarettes for many years. My friends say it is incurable. I get breathless when I exercise or climb stairs—it is frustrating. Is there really no hope for me?

Doctor Says...

Although Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD often presents with progressive worsening of lung function over time, there is much that can be done to alleviate the consequent breathlessness and other manifestations of the disorder. The extent of irreversibility of lung damage (which translates to the level of "incurability") largely depends on the duration and severity of exposure to injurious agents, particularly to cigarette smoke, and a genetic predisposition to its development. COPD is now treatable and manageable. The objectives of treatment include slowing this accelerated decline in lung function, relieving symptoms, reducing the risk of attacks, and improving the patient's quality of life.

Depending on your symptoms and the degree and reversibility of airflow limitation (as assessed by a lung function test called spirometry), your doctor will assess the disease severity and determine what treatment you need. He/she will assess the environmental or occupational agents that you may have to avoid. Smoking cessation is the single most effective and cheapest intervention that you can do to halt or slow down the progression of COPD and save your life. Your doctor will likely prescribe inhaler(s) which work by relaxing the tight airways. These include rapid-acting inhaled bronchodilators which can provide quick relief of the breathing difficulty and long-acting ones that you may need to take everyday to achieve the longer-term beneficial effects. Patients with more severe disease may also require additional oral bronchodilators and an inhaled corticosteroid which act on airway inflammation. Fixed-dosed combination inhalers which deliver a long-acting bronchodilator and a steroid with a single puff are now also available and have been found to significantly reduce breathlessness on exertion and improve the quality of life of patients. Enrollment in a pulmonary rehabilitation program also gives these benefits. Short courses of oral steroids, antibiotics and nebulized bronchodilators may be prescribed during acute attacks. Your doctor will also likely recommend vaccinations to help protect you against pneumococcal pneumonia and influenza. He/she will also determine if you already need supplemental oxygen and other interventions and if you have other illnesses, such as coronary artery disease, that contribute to the breathlessness. He/she will also pay attention to your nutritional status, since malnutrition is seen frequently among patients with COPD.

There is always hope for COPD patients. Discuss your options with your doctor.

Dr. David-Wang is a Pulmonary Medicine consultant at Manila Doctors Hospital. She is currently the chief of the Section of Pulmonary Medicine at the Philippine General Hospital and clinical associate professor at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine. She is a member of the Specialty Board of the Philippine College of Chest Physicians.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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Mystics and quantum physicists speak the same language

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

QUANTUM PHYSICISTS have discovered to their amazement that, in the sub-atomic world, particles behave in very "unscientific and unpredictable" ways.

For example:

1. An observer watching a particle affects the way it behaves. It can appear as a particle (with a mass, static and at a specific location in space) or as a wave (nonlocal and dynamic).

2. A particle can affect the action or behavior of another at a distance.

3. A particle can revolve in an orbit at one time then suddenly disappear and appear in another.

4. Cause may occur at the same time as, not before, an effect.

5. The exact location of a particle cannot be pinpointed, only the probability.

6. A fourth dimension known as space-time exists.

7. Everything is constantly in a state of motion, never static. Therefore, everything is really energy.

In his best-selling book "The Dancing Wu Li Masters," Gary Zukav says, "The new physics, quantum mechanics, tells us clearly that it is not possible to observe reality without changing it."

Two ways of seeing

Psychologist Dr. Lawrence LeShan says there are two ways of looking at the world. The first he calls sensory reality, the way most of us see it; the other is clairvoyant reality, how mystics and visionaries see the world. These are not opposite but complementary ways.

The Mexican Yaqui Indian mystic Don Juan Matus, who called himself a *brujo* or sorcerer in the books by anthropologist Carlos Castañeda, called the two ways of looking at the world tonal and nagual.

Tonal is the way ordinary people see the world, while Nagual is the way sorcerers or mystics see it, i.e. from an inner or esoteric perspective.

It is difficult for mystics to describe the world they see to ordinary people who see it only from the macro-level, the tonal.

The world the mystic sees is indescribable or difficult to verbalize. The world of particle physics that quantum physicists see is indescribable from the Newtonian stand point. Nor can it be understood rationally and scientifically.

The same is true with clairvoyant vision. It defies all known laws of physical vision.

Quantum physics has definitely and clearly shown that there is no such thing as objective reality. Buddhists and other Eastern mystics have been telling us for thousands of years the same thing, that everything is *maya* or illusion.

New allies

Psychics and the world of paranormal phenomena have at last found an ally in modern or quantum physicists. They seem to be talking the same language when describing the world. There cannot be any contradiction because truth is one and, if both are telling the truth, both should be correct.

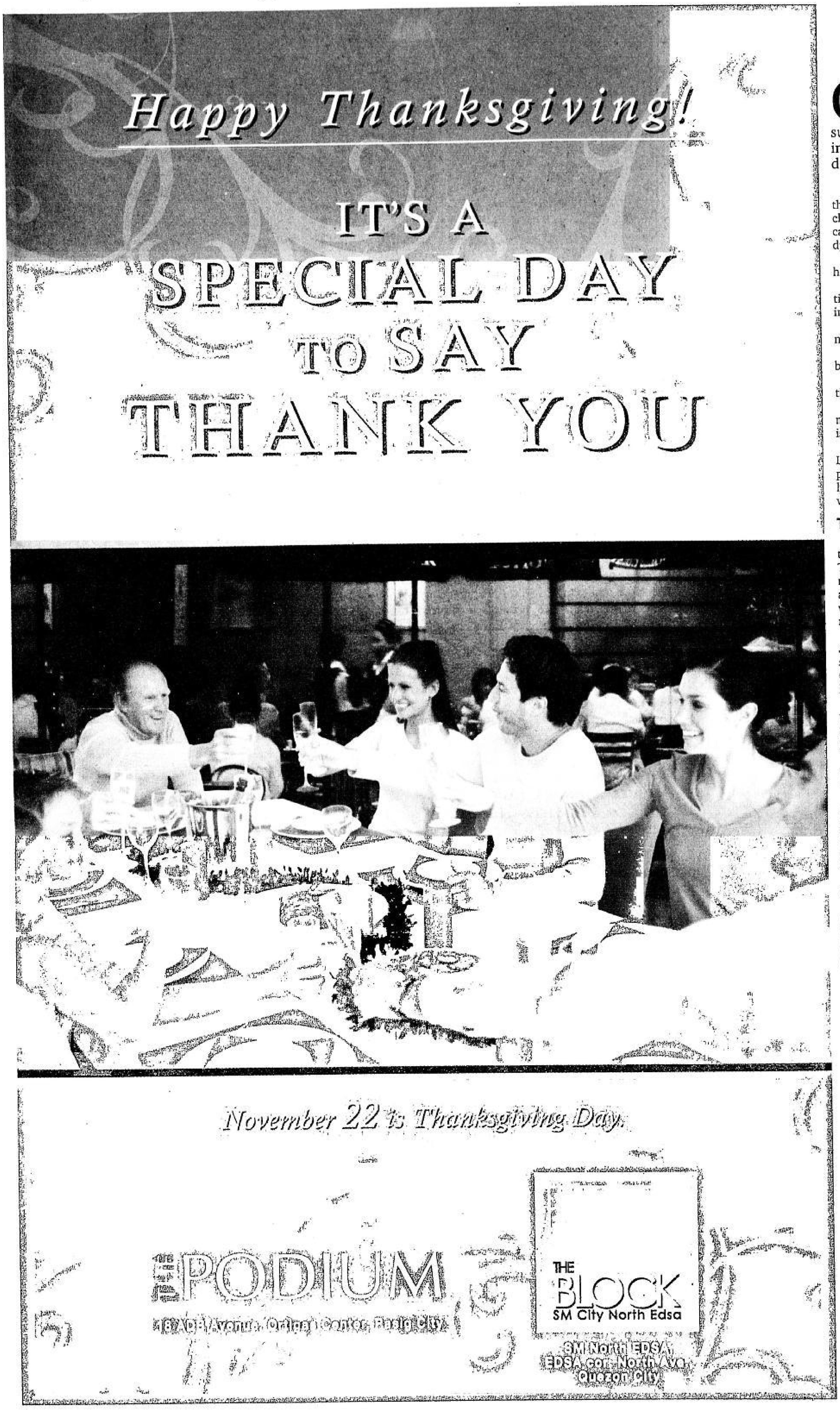
The following statements were made either by a physicist (scientist) or by a mystic (philosopher). They were quoted side by side by psychologist Dr. Lawrence LeShan in his book "The Medium, The Mystic and the Physicist" to show that their language, when describing the ultimate or fundamental nature of physical reality or the universe, was almost indistinguishable from each other:

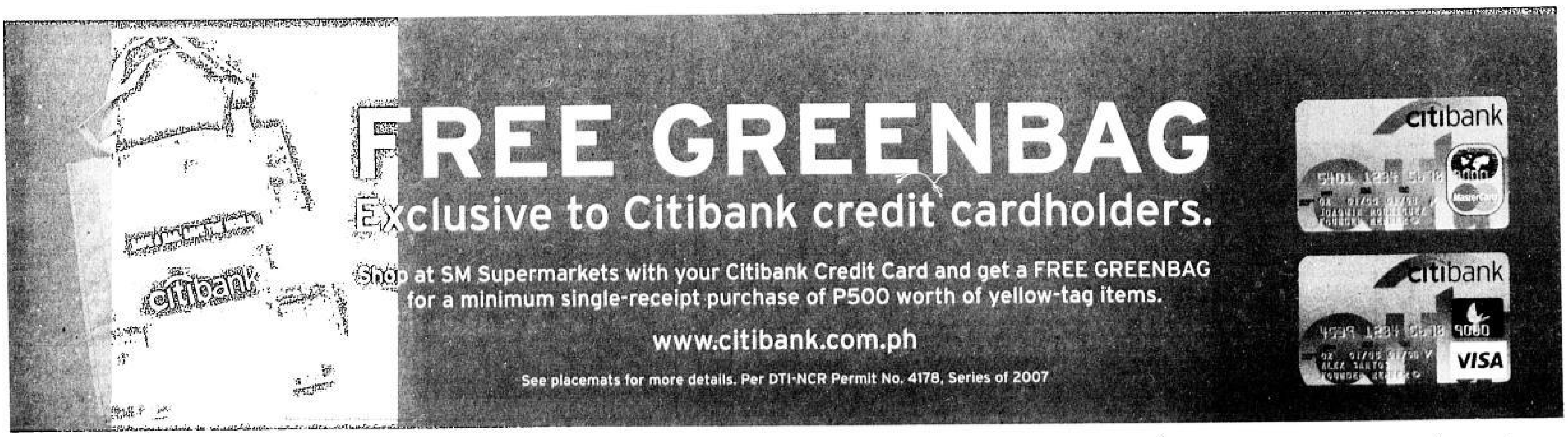
1. "No doubt we should not speak of seeing, but instead of seen and seer, speak boldly of a simple unity. For in this seeing we neither distinguish nor are there, too." (Plotinus, ancient Greek philosopher)

2. "When we thought we were studying the external world, our data were still our observations. The world was an inference from them." (Dingle, physicist)

3. " ...The reason why our sentiment, percipient and thinking ego is met nowhere in the world picture can easily be indicated in seven words: because it is itself that word

MYSTICS/ C3


Happy Thanksgiving!
IT'S A SPECIAL DAY TO SAY THANK YOU
November 22 is Thanksgiving Day.
THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
THE BLOCK
SM City North Edsa
SM North EDSA
EDSA cor. North Ave.
Quezon City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Stay in shape this holiday season

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

By Mitch Felipe
Contributor

DID YOU NOTICE YOU MAKE the same new year's resolution every year?

"This happens only once a year. I will just go to the gym and lose 10 pounds starting January. Well, everyone is gaining weight, so there's nothing to worry about."

By procrastinating, you are delaying your success. This becomes a pattern. Your old thinking that makes you eat more and moveless leads to unhealthy consequences like weight gain and reduced exercise performance.

According to a 2000 study of the United States National Institutes of Health, an average person gains just over one pound during the holidays. Thus, if you do not make the effort to break the pattern, you can gain 10 pounds in 10 years.

Modify behavior

My graduate school thesis, "The Effectiveness of the Combination of Behavior Therapy, Exercise and Diet in Weight Loss," presents behavior therapy as a weight loss intervention. It includes goal-setting, self-monitoring, environmental control, physical activity and eating behavior education, cognitive restructuring, problem-solving, social support and relapse prevention.

The group with weekly behavior modification lessons completed the recommended exercises and followed a nutri-

STAY/ D4

COKE HERALDS THE COMING OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the most anticipated and celebrated occasion in every Filipino home. As early as when the "ber" months come around, indications of the coming Christmas season begin to surround us, drowning us all in an atmosphere of immense delight and gladness.

It is not surprising that Moms always make Christmas mealtimes special for the family – she adorns her home with beautiful Christmas décor, brings out her best silverware, painstakingly cooks the family's favorite dishes, and makes sure her family experiences the specialness of the occasion. Indeed, the gathering together during special occasions of every family member—from sons and daughters, to parents and grandparents, down to whole sets of cousins, aunts, uncles and even family friends—is what distinguishes Filipinos from the other peoples of the world.

Naturally, no Filipino Christmas table is truly complete without a bottle of ice-cold Coca-Cola Litro. For decades, Coke has been making every Filipino meal more special as it enhances the taste of our Christmas food, adds laughter to the conversations, and allows family members to catch up with each other . And to make Christmas even more exciting for every family, starting October 21, Coca-Cola will be rewarding, through its Coca-Cola Kasalo sa Pasko Promo, those moms who make Coke Litro part of their meals.

Consumers just need to buy Coke Litro and look under the cap to see if it's one of the winning Kasalo Caps. They have to present ONE (1) Winning Kasalo Cap plus FOUR (4) Red Litro Caps, to redeem their special Kasalo Spoon and Fork collectibles at participating sari-sari stores and public markets nationwide.

With sets of Kasalo Spoons and Forks, Coke Litro, and all your special Christmas meals, you're sure to have a splendid dining table that sings and dances in a medley of tastes, smells and colors!

Now you top everything off with the love and laughter that comes from your family and the thought that Coke will be bringing you even more surprises this season and what you'll have indeed is the merriest Christmas celebration in the whole world.

Bonding sa Buhay Coke Buksan Mo™

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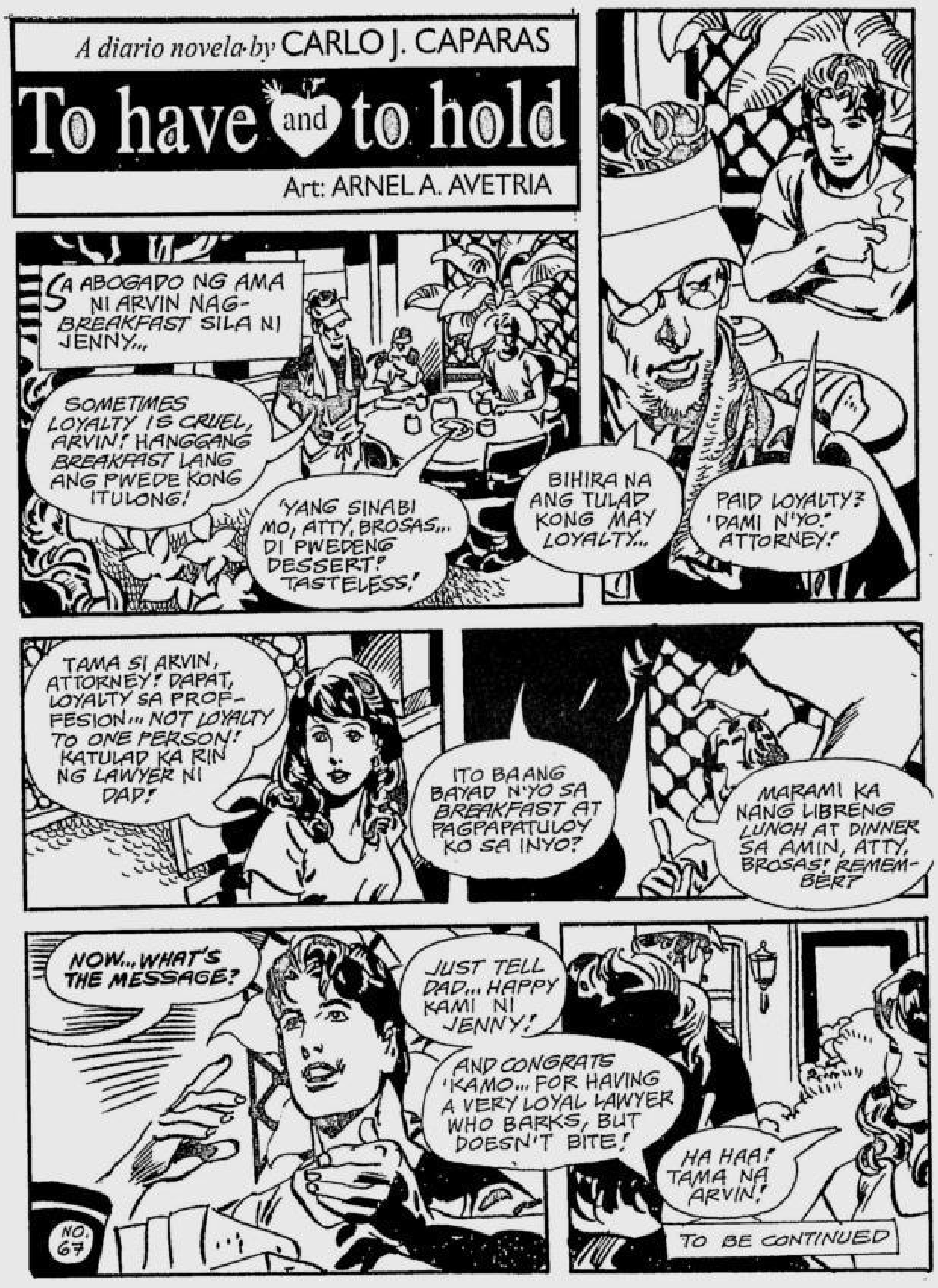
Coca-Cola
Kasalo sa Pasko
Buy Coke® Litro* and get a Kasalo Collectible
*FOUR RED LITRO CAPS
+
ONE WINNING KASALO CAP UNDER THE CAP
=
FREE KASALO COLLECTIBLE
Bonding sa Buhay Coke Buksan Mo
Claim at Coca-Cola redemption centers
Customer Care Hotline
Metro Manila: 813-2653 (COKE)
Provincial: 1800-1888-2653 (COKE)
Sprite
Royal

How to claim:
- To get the Kasalo Collectible set, you must collect four (4) red promo caps of participating Coke, Sprite or RTO 1 Liter packs and one (1) winning Kasalo Cap (under the cap) of Coke, Sprite or RTO 1 Liter.
- Redeem Kasalo Collectible sets at participating Sari-Sari Stores & Market Stall redemption centers.
- Redemption period is until February 21, 2008 only. Kasalo Collectible sets are not redeemable for cash.
- A verification process will be conducted upon redemption to determine authenticity of the specially marked Christmas Kasalo cap. Fraudulent caps are invalid. Decisions of Coca-Cola on verification matters are final.
- Employees of TCCEC, CCBP, MEP including their parent companies, affiliates, third party suppliers, BFAD and their relatives up to the 2nd level of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
- Consumers may redeem more than once.
- Promo Period: October 21 – December 21, 2007.

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

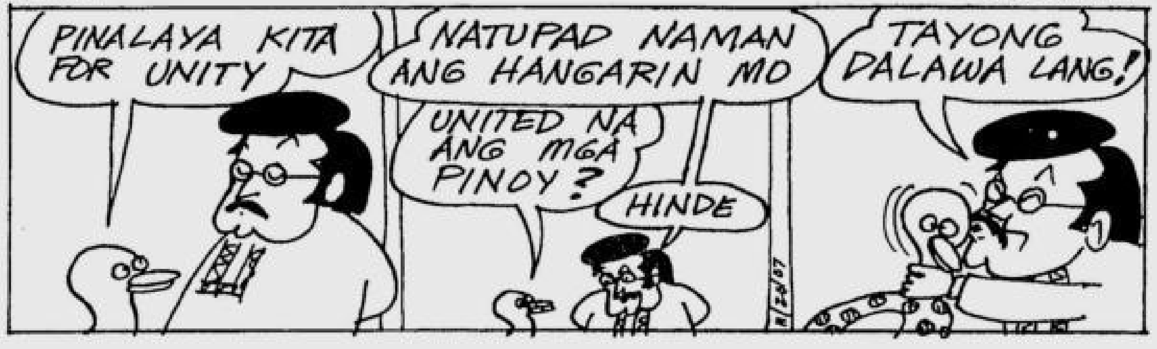
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


SA ABOGADO NG AMA NI ARVIN NAG-BREAKFAST SILA NI JENNY...
SOMETIMES LOYALTY IS CRUEL, ARVIN! HANGGANG BREAKFAST LANG ANG PWEDE KONG ITULONG!
'YANG SINABI MO, ATTY, BROSAS... DI PWEDENG DESSERT! TASTELESS!
BIHIRA NA ANG TULAD KONG MAY LOYALTY...
PAID LOYALTY? 'DAMI N'YO! ATTORNEY!
TAMA SI ARVIN, ATTORNEY! DAPAT, LOYALTY SA PROF-FESION... NOT LOYALTY TO ONE PERSON! KATULAD KA RIN NG LAWYER NI DAD!
ITO BA ANG BAYAD N'YO SA BREAKFAST AT PAGPAPATULOY KO SA INYO?
MARAMI KA NANG LIBRENG LUNCH AT DINNER SA AMIN, ATTY, BROSAS! REMEMBER?
NOW... WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?
JUST TELL DAD... HAPPY KAMI NI JENNY!
AND CONGRATS 'KAMO... FOR HAVING A VERY LOYAL LAWYER WHO BARKS, BUT DOESN'T BITE!
HA HAA! TAMA NA ARVIN!
NO. 67
TO BE CONTINUED

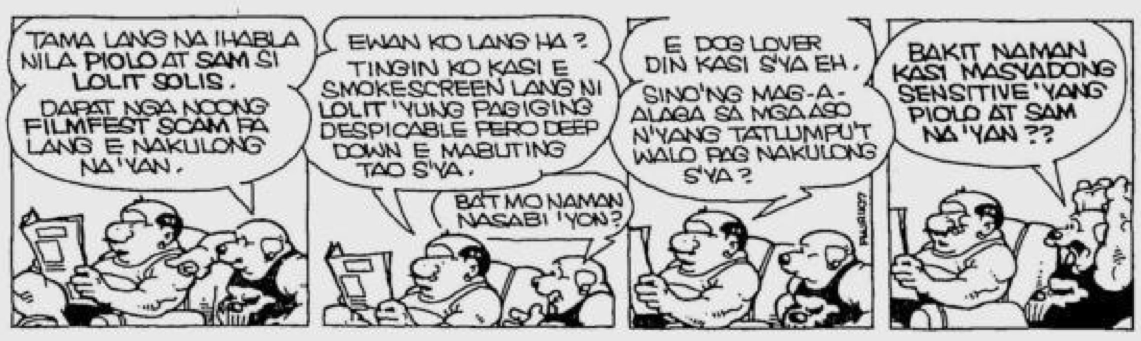
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PINALAYA KITA FOR UNITY
NATUPAD NAMAN ANG HANGARIN MO
UNITED NA ANG MGA PINOY?
HINDE
TAYONG DALAWA LANG!

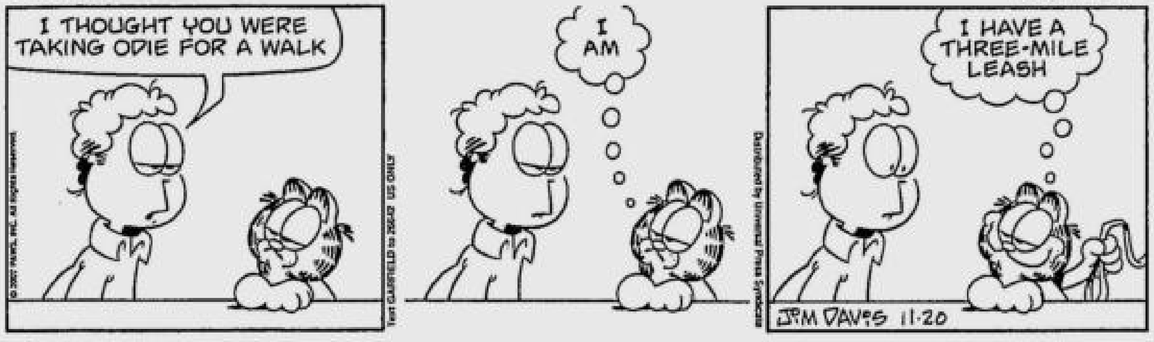
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TAMA LANG NA IHABLA NILA PIOLO AT SAM SI LOLIT SOLIS.
DAPAT NGA NOONG FILMFEST SCAM PA LANG E NAKULONG NA 'YAN.
EWAN KO LANG HA?
TINGIN KO KASI E SMOKESCREEN LANG NI LOLIT 'YUNG PAGIGING DESPICABLE PERO DEEP DOWN E MABUTING TAO S'YA.
BA'T MO NAMAN NASABI 'YON?
E DOG LOVER DIN KASI S'YA EH.
SINO'NG MAG-A-ALAGA SA MGA ASO N'YANG TATLUMPU'T WALO PAG NAKULONG S'YA?
BAKIT NAMAN KASI MASYADONG SENSITIVE 'YANG PIOLO AT SAM NA 'YAN??

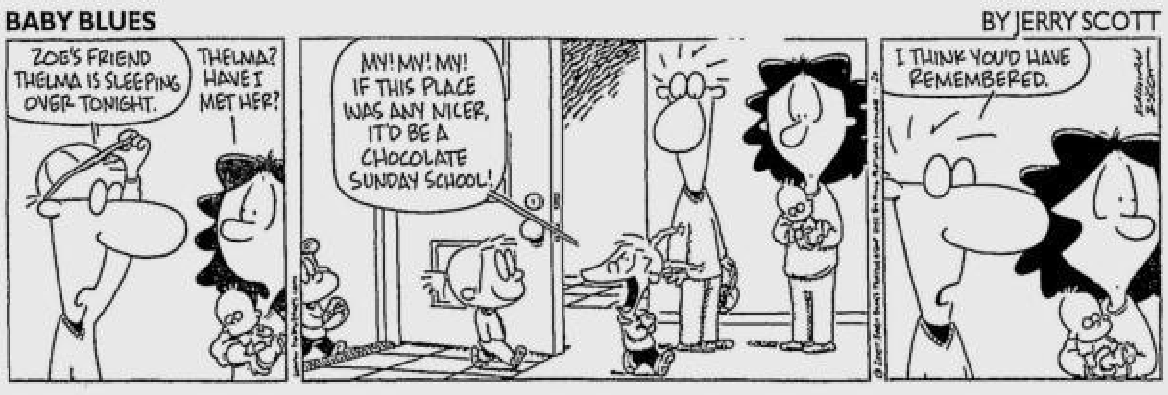
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING ODIE FOR A WALK
I AM
I HAVE A THREE-MILE LEASH
JIM DAVIS 11-20

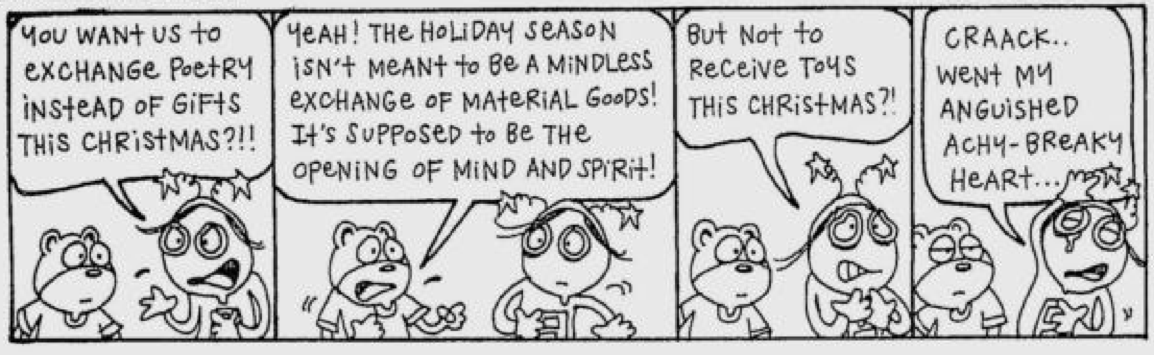
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ZOE'S FRIEND THELMA IS SLEEPING OVER TONIGHT.
THELMA? HAVE I MET HER?
MY! MY! MY! IF THIS PLACE WAS ANY NICER, IT'D BE A CHOCOLATE SUNDAY SCHOOL!
I THINK YOU'D HAVE REMEMBERED.

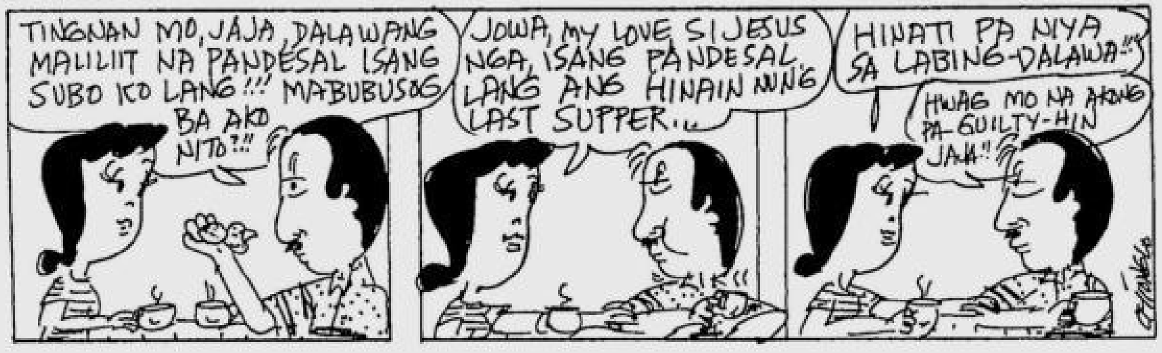
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


You want us to exchange Poetry instead of Gifts this Christmas?!!
Yeah! The Holiday season isn't meant to Be a mindless exchange of material Goods! It's supposed to be the opening of mind and spirit!
But not to receive toys this Christmas?!
CRAACK.. went my anguished achy-breaky heart...

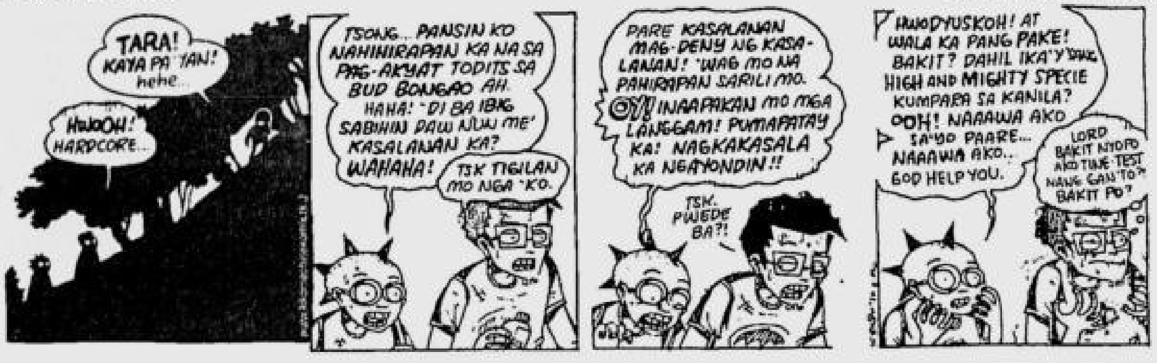
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


TINGNAN MO, JAJA, DALAWANG MALILIIT NA PANDESAL ISANG SUBO KO LANG!!! MABUBUSOG BA AKO NITO?!!
JOWA, MY LOVE SI JESUS NGA, ISANG PANDESAL LANG ANG HINAIN NING LAST SUPPER...
HINATI PA NIYA SA LABING-DALAWA!!
HWAG MO NA AKONG PA-GUILTY-HIN JAJA!!

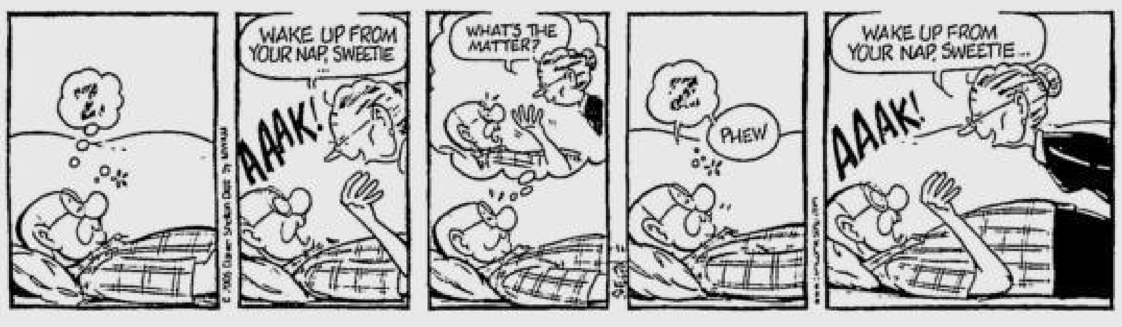
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA

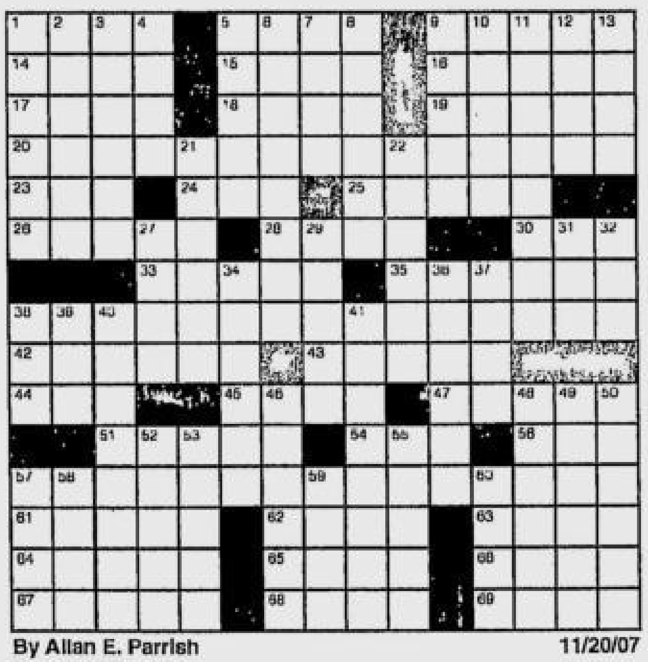

TARA! KAYA PA 'YAN! hehe..
HWOOH! HARDCORE..
TSONG... PANSIN KO NAHIHIRAPAN KA NA SA PAG-AKYAT TODITS SA BUD BONGAO AH. HAHA! 'DI BA IBIG SABIHIN DAW NUN ME' KASALANAN KA? WAHAHA!
TSK TIGILAN MO NGA 'KO.
PARE KASALANAN MAG-DENY NG KASALANAN! 'WAG MO NA PAHIRAPAN SARILI MO. OY! INAAPAKAN MO MGA LANGGAM! PUMAPATAY KA! NAGKAKASALA KA NGAYONDIN!!
TSK. PWEDE BA?!
HUODYUSKOH! AT WALA KA PANG PAKE! BAKIT? DAHIL IKA'Y 'ANG HIGH AND MIGHTY SPECIE KUMPARA SA KANILA? OOH! NAAAWA AKO SA'YO PAARE... NAAAWA AKO.. GOD HELP YOU.
LORD BAKIT NYO PO AKO TINE-TEST NANG GAN'TO? BAKIT PO?

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WAKE UP FROM YOUR NAP, SWEETIE
AAAK!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
PHEW
WAKE UP FROM YOUR NAP, SWEETIE...
AAAK!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Allan E. Parrish
Mentor, OH

11/20/07

ACROSS
- 1 Green stone
- 5 Bananas
- 9 Beethoven dedicatee
- 14 God of love
- 15 Sitting atop
- 16 Kidney-related
- 17 "Cheers" cheer!
- 18 Portable music device
- 19 U.S.-Mex.-Can. union
- 20 New Deal target
- 23 Flight from the law
- 24 Ely or Howard
- 25 Swallowed
- 26 Yale or Root
- 28 Cartoon deputy
- 30 Now __ seen everything!
- 33 __ Ababa
- 35 Chinese philosopher
- 38 Bling-bling, e.g.
- 42 "Hard Times" writer
- 43 Lets fly
- 44 Edible tuber
- 45 Surveyor's map
- 47 Golf course coarse area
- 51 Raw-fish dish
- 54 Tango team
- 56 New Deal prog.
- 57 Initial reaction
- 61 Gem State
- 62 Thunderclap
- 63 Platte River tribe
- 64 Smoothing device
- 65 Actor Omar
- 66 "Whip It" band
- 67 French river
- 68 New Age musician John
- 69 Arabian port

DOWN
- 1 Harsh, metallic sound
- 2 Without principles
- 3 Scale notes
- 4 Ms. Bombeck
- 5 "Aurora" fresco painter Reni
- 6 Supplementary material
- 7 Sticky stuff
- 8 Carnegie or Mellon
- 9 Dadaist painter
- 10 Rental contract
- 11 M45 and Q45 maker
- 12 Former Japanese P.M.
- 13 Great passion
- 21 Plod along
- 22 Two-under-par scores
- 27 Aaron or Williams
- 29 Pet protection org.
- 31 Brandy letters
- 32 Velvet end?
- 34 Oracle location
- 36 Houston pros
- 37 __ buco
- 38 Swine pen
- 39 Pastoral spot
- 40 Weapons buildup
- 41 Dilapidated dwellings
- 46 Clinging mollusk
- 48 Wed
- 49 Furrow
- 50 "Weird" family band
- 52 Lead to seats
- 53 Put in mothballs
- 55 Cardiff populace
- 57 Stereotypical poodle
- 58 McKinley and Cantor
- 59 LePew of cartoon fame
- 60 Bubbly drink

Monday's Puzzle Solved

T	H	A	I	■	A	C	T	U	P	■	W	H	A	T
H	A	N	D	■	C	H	I	L	L	■	A	I	D	S
E	D	D	I	E	M	O	N	E	Y	■	S	A	V	E
■	■	R	O	M	E	O	■	■	■	S	P	L	A	T
S	H	E	M	P	■	S	M	A	S	H	■	E	N	S
P	T	A	■	■	D	E	A	L	E	R	■	A	C	E
A	S	S	U	M	E	■	R	E	L	I	S	H	E	S
■	■	■	■	F	I	F	T	Y	C	E	N	T	■	■
B	I	N	O	M	I	A	L	■	C	E	L	L	O	S
U	S	A	■	O	N	F	O	O	T	■	■	E	Y	E
L	O	T	■	S	E	T	U	P	■	S	M	O	L	T
L	L	A	M	A	■	■	■	E	A	T	E	N	■	■
D	A	L	I	■	J	O	H	N	N	Y	C	A	S	H
O	T	I	S	■	E	B	B	E	D	■	C	R	A	M
G	E	E	S	■	D	O	O	D	Y	■	A	D	D	S

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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're feisty and quick to defend your beliefs. You never shy away from conflicts. You have high ideals, and you believe in fighting for them. You're intelligent and enjoy a dry sense of humor. You're quite excitable; however, you're very practical. In the year ahead, major changes could take place, perhaps as significant as something that occurred around 1999.

Birthdate of: Sean Young, actress; Robert F. Kennedy, politician; Sheema Kalbasi, poet/activist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You're feeling very feisty today. In fact, if you admit it to yourself, you're looking for a fight. You want the satisfaction of asserting yourself.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might be unconsciously angry today and not know why. And if this is the case, you'll be irritable. Either figure out what is bothering you or be patient.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your interactions with friends and groups are very energetic today. However, you'll want to win! You'll work hard to have the first word or the last.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Relationships with bosses and parents might be a tad prickly today. You don't want anyone telling you what to do. In fact, you want to show others you can get things done without being supervised.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're eager to learn something new today. You want adventure and thrills! At the very least, go someplace you've never been before. (Visit new stores or restaurants.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Disputes about shared property or who is responsible for what are likely today. If they occur, you won't back down. You feel it's necessary to defend your position.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Conflict with others is highly likely today. People are easily irritable and ready to speak their minds even if it is unpleasant. Practice patience!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You'll need to hold your temper or work today. Co-workers might exasperate you. However, don't make a big deal about things. (You have to work with these people in the future.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is a wonderful day for arts and crafts or exploring your creative talents. Sports will be exciting and competitive. You'll enjoy playful activities with children.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Conflict with family members can arise easily today, especially with parents. When the Moon is in Aries, everyone is looking for a fight. Run away! Run away!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): In discussions with others today, you'll be very persuasive. Actually, you might be a bit too pushy. You want to win any argument because you want others to agree with you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): If shopping today, you'll be impulsive and spontaneous. Anything might happen. But if you want something, you'll get it.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

	7		3	2			4	
6			1					
		8		9				5
	9		8					1
2								4
1					6		3	
5				8		6		
					7			3
	4			3	2		9	

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/20

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	3	2	9	6	7	4	1	5
9	4	6	5	1	3	7	8	2
5	1	7	8	4	2	3	9	6
6	8	3	7	5	9	1	2	4
1	7	4	2	3	6	9	5	8
2	9	5	4	8	1	6	3	7
3	5	8	6	9	4	2	7	1
7	6	9	1	2	5	8	4	3
4	2	1	3	7	8	5	6	9

Difficulty Level ★

GOV. DV Savellano, Pinky Tobiano, Vincent Aldanese and wife Rhoda Campos A., and Rico Tantoco

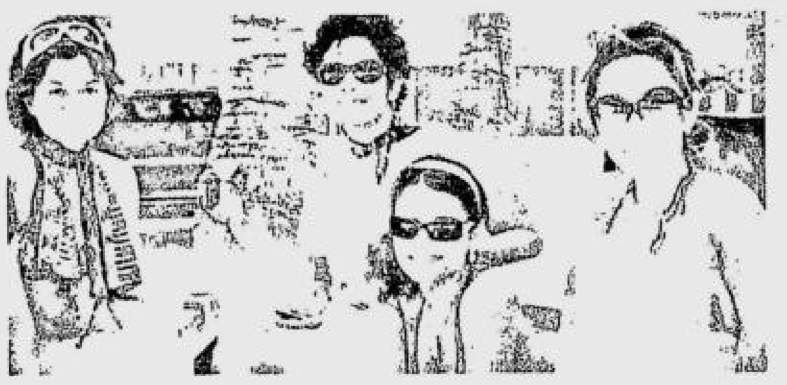
FRANCES Lim with lawyer Ily Crespo and Geraldine Ocier

RAFFY and Kat Florencio of Technomarine with Anna and Chito Sobrepeña

EVANGELINE and Jerry Lacson of Samsung; co-publisher Jerry Tiu and his wife Lianne Tiu; and brilliant publisher of Mega Publishing Sari Yap

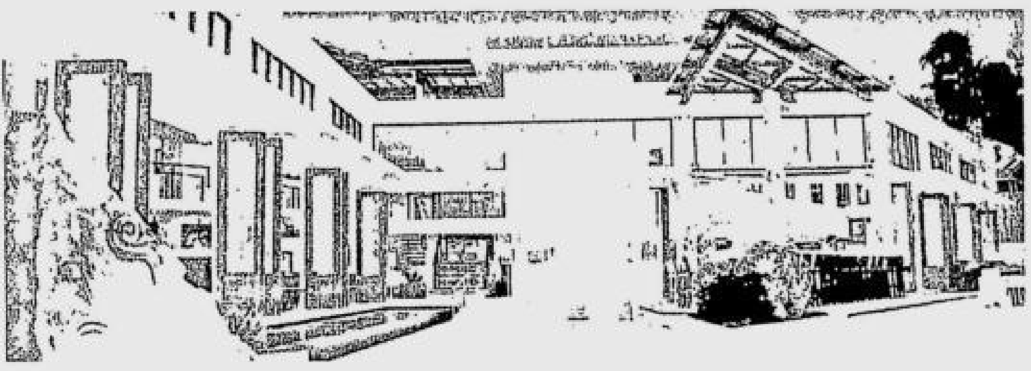
NENA Tantoco and Silk Cocoon's Jeannie Goulbourn

JOJI Dingcong and Ferdie Ong of Minotti

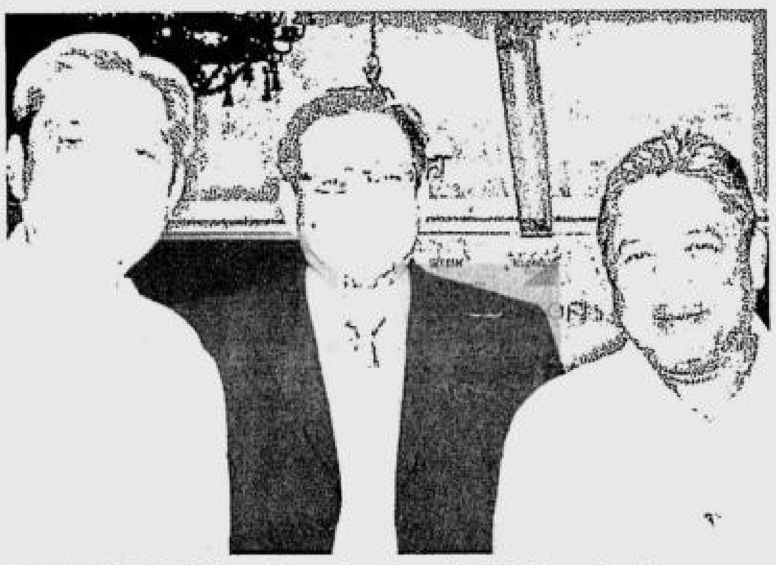


LEXI Berenguer-Testa, Lorraine and Helena Belmonte, and Carla Sibal

DISCOVERY Shores



Fun weekend affair in Bora



HOTSHOTS. PAL board member Antonio Alindogan Jr., Eton Properties Philippines president and COO Danilo Ignacio, and PAL president and COO Jaime Bautista

PAL'S Ria Domingo, Eton's Bernice Bobadilla, DJ Castro and PAL's Kit Javier

PAL'S brilliant Henry So Uy

PAL'S Babsie Aragon and Mary Ann Timbol

PAL'S Debbie Cuyegkeng, Mabuhay Miles members Rotina and Wilbert Lim

MABUHAY Miles members Carol and Fredrick Siy

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

TO MARK ITS 20TH YEAR, Lifestyle Asia Magazine brought invitees to its huge bash at the ultra posh Discovery Shores resort in Boracay.

With its pristine white beach, the resort provided the perfect setting for a super relaxed and a totally fun weekend affair, *palanggas*.

Lifestyle Asia's mega divas—**Sari Yap**, **Lorraine Belmonte** and **Carla Sibal**—saw to it that we would all experience the best that Bora could offer.

Only 60 chosen ones were flown to the luxurious destination to be wined, dined and treated to endless rejuvenating beach-front pleasures.

Tech giant Samsung brought its own brand of luxe to the occasion.

An entire day devoted to soothing massages and tropical fruit shakes was the perfect prelude to a night of barefoot partying.

Lifestyle Asia's hot, hot team was joined by Mega Publishing group chair, business magnate **Jerry Tiu**, and his so nice wife **Lianne**, no less; Rustans Commercial Corp. president **Rico Tantoco** and wife, southern lady **Nena Vargas**; and our town's in-demand fabulous corporate image specialist **Joji Dingcong**, dahlings.

LA's maiden issue and 20 cakes were distributed among the different tables. Invitees, fabulously dressed in black, socialized while sipping their cocktails then headed to the beach front for an evening of decadent food and entertainment.

Dropping by the next day for lunch was House Speaker **Joe de Venecia** to congratulate the magazine on its 20th birthday, dahlings.

Once again, Lifestyle Asia put its stamp on an unforgettable weekend getaway, giving everyone a chance to recharge their batteries and proving that "less is more," *palanggas*.

A promo like no other

It was one of those evenings when four or five happenings were going on at the same time. So, what else is new?

One of my first stops was the horsy set's favorite stable, the Manila Polo Club, *palanggas*. Eton Properties Philippines Inc., one of the country's fastest-growing real estate developers, together with partners Philippine Airlines' Mabuhay Miles, hosted a promo unlike any other.

With every purchase of a unit at Eton Emerald Lofts, customers earn miles from Mabuhay Miles that they can use to travel for free to any PAL destination.

The polo club was packed with Mabuhay Miles members and hotshot namedroppable executives of PAL and Eton Properties, *natch*.

The event was hosted by PAL's AVP for products **Babsie Aragon** and entertainer **Arnel Ignacio.**

Eton president and COO **Danilo E. Ignacio** said: "This reward is one example of how our clients benefit from the strength of Eton Properties and the LT Group of Companies. It's our way of saying thank you. With Eton Emerald Lofts, it's all about giving more value to future residents and investors."

Philippine Airlines hot president and gentleman for all seasons **Jaime Bautista** said: "This special mileage promotion between Eton and PAL is a first in the industry. A chance to travel and a chance to live in a quality residential project is everybody's dream.

"More importantly, with this synergy, companies within the Lucio Tan Group work with each other's strengths to become a stronger, combined unit."

The statement brought applause from the *tres* interested invitees, *palanggas*.

For more info about how to live high and fly high at Eton Emerald Lofts, do call 7502828 or 0917-8943866, or visit www.etonemeraldlofts.com.

Divine day

Forty of Manila's power women spent a day fit for a goddess at Montecito, dahlings.

Although I'm definitely not a "goddess," *moi* couldn't resist the invite to the Nature Pavilion of Montecito in Canlubang that said, "Pamper the goddess in you," *palanggas*.

Goddesses from the Women's Business Council and Zonta, plus women who have long ago recognized they are goddesses in their own right, responded to Guerlain and Decleor's invitation, dahlings.

Flanked by the picturesque Mt. Makiling, Tagaytay Ridge and Laguna de Bay, Montecito is a world away from our asphalt jungle, a setting that seems tailor-made for the "goddesses." They indulged in activities that rejuvenated both body and spirit.

Life coach **Antonio Salac Santos** awakened their consciousness, ushering them "into the divine" and calling forth the essence of "Mother Creator."

The discussion on "how to bring out the goddess in you" ended in meditation as cool soothing music played against a delightful backdrop of serene, mountainous greenery, dahlings.

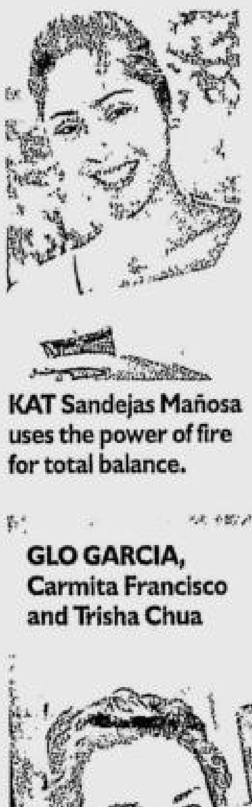
Guerlain was there to smooth away facial woes and bring out "the beauty that these women were endowed with" using its Fall-Winter makeup collection.

Ahhh, the Guerlain divas like **Chiqui Server**, **Glo Garcia**, **Elsa Payumo** and **Evelyn Camus Alcantara** surrendered to the hypnotic scents.

In a private sanctuary, Decleor gently massaged those tired, heavenly bodies. **Carmita Francisco**, **Mila Abad**, **Vicky Gonzales**, **Sabsy Palanca**, **Annie Sy** and **Maritess Pineda** couldn't have enough pampering.

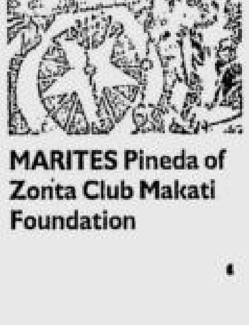
Pampered and recharged, "the goddesses" bid farewell to the lush haven that is Montecito with its natural, untouched surroundings, to head back to the horrors of our concrete jungle.

CHIQUI Server of Zonta Muntinlupa



KAT Sandejas Mañosa uses the power of fire for total balance.

MILA Amunategui Abad and Elsa Payumo, both former Ms Caltex winners



MARITES Pineda of Zonta Club Makati Foundation

GLO GARCIA, Carmita Francisco and Trisha Chua

Sportswear for the fashionable

SPORTS EMBODY THE elements of freedom, creativity and passion.

Sports aficionados expect the same thing from the clothes they wear. Sassa Activewear are made with those three elements in mind.

The sportswear line offers flexibility to allow maximum movement. Whether the wearer is paddling in the roughest of ocean waters or doing the most advanced of workouts, Sassa Activewear allows her the freedom to move in maximum comfort.

MANUFACTURING uses cutting edge technology.

THE LINE offers maximum flexibility.

Many sports enthusiasts not only want to be at the top of their game but also to be fashionable. They will not settle ill-fitting and boring sports threads.

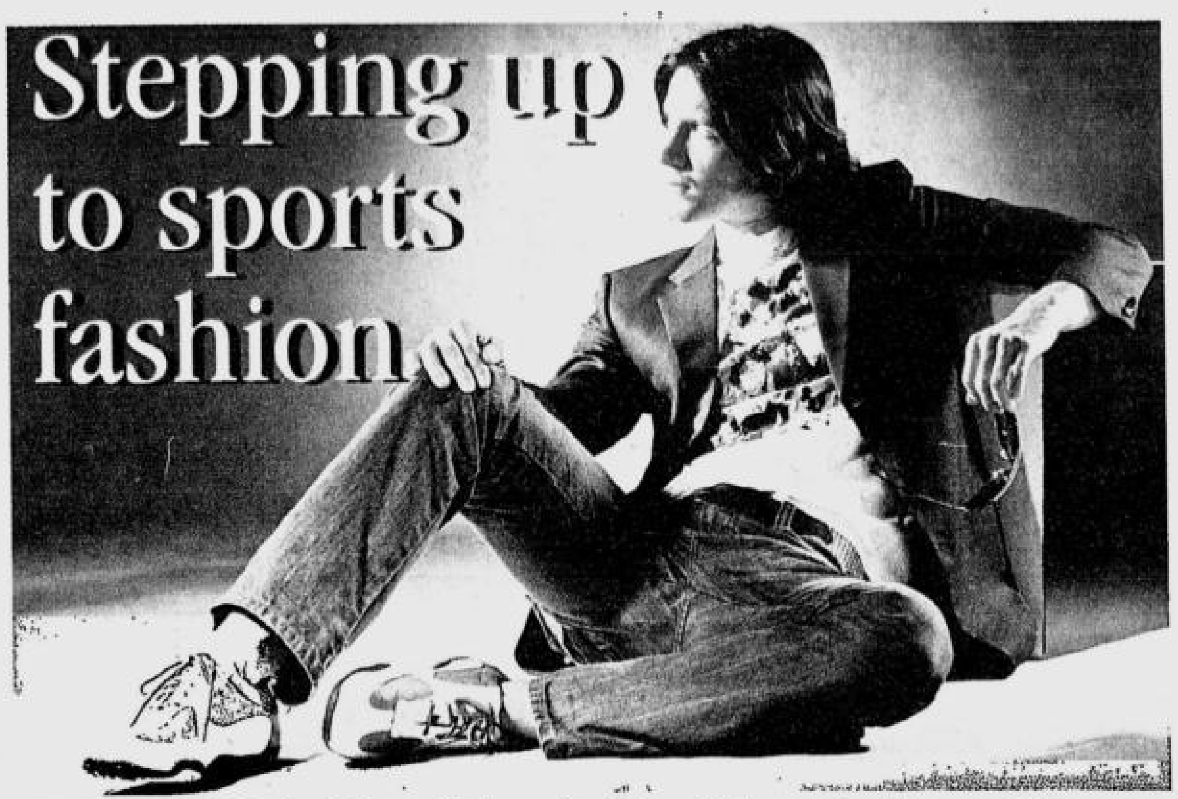
Sassa Activewear has sleek designs that go with the latest fashion trends. The wide range of colors, textures and styles make the garments flexible enough to be mixed and matched for street wear.

The Sassa Activewear line is manufactured using cutting edge technology, from the meticulous designing process to the precision of its assemblage.

With Sassa Activewear, the wearer does not only make a fashion statement, but a passionate one.

Sassa Activewear is available in all Robinsons department stores, all SM Hypermart branches and the Landmark.

Stepping up to sports fashion


THE RICARDO SHOE, wing tip front with five eyelets balmoral lacing

FLORSHEIM HAS stepped up its game by expanding its market to include the younger, ath-leisure crowd with its F-Sports line.

Leading the line are three shoe styles that are casual enough for leisure time, but built to last any athletic activity.

The Baricelo wing toe slip-on shoe in walnut stone and black colors with a center gore, a fully-cushioned footbed, leather linings and a flexible rubber bottom.

The Ricardo shoe is in two-color genuine soft upper leather, with moisture-absorbing full leather lining, soft padded collar and flexible polyurethane outsole for shock absorbing cushion and durability.

The Stroll athletics-inspired slip-on leisure shoe features tumbled leather with perforated nubuck upper, with full-length ortholite® footbed, elastic speed lacing, leather linings and sock lining, and a dual density polyurethane and rubber bottom.

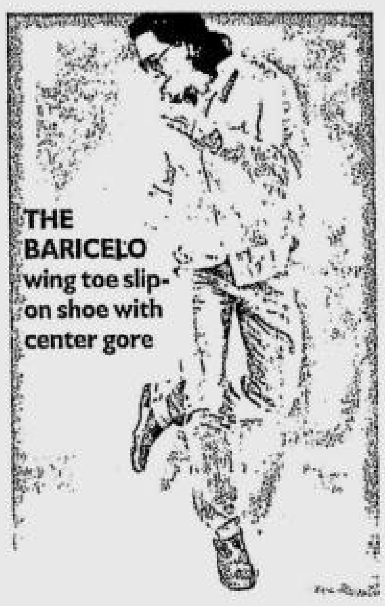
With Florsheim's new F-Sports line, walking proudly and stylishly has never been so much easier.

Florsheim stores are located at Shangri-La Plaza mall, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Robinsons Galleria, TriNoma, Power Plant Mall Rockwell Center, Glorietta 4 Ayala Center Makati, Robinsons Place Manila, SM Mall of Asia, Alabang Town Center, Festival Mall, SM City Davao, SM City Cagayan de Oro, Ayala Center Cebu.

CARRERA bicycle has leather lining that increases the comfort level and cushions the foot.

THE STROLL has contemporary styling.

HARLEY has breathable leather lining.


THE BARICELO wing toe slip-on shoe with center gore

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Kodak	· Free 5 4R Kodak Digital Prints for every 25 4R Kodak Digital Prints ordered in any participating Kodak Express stores. · Free one Kodak Picture Kiosk print for every 10 4R Kodak Picture Kiosk prints in any participating Kodak Express stores. · PhP 50 OFF for every purchase of Kodak Ultra Compact Flash OR Water & Sports Single Use Camera in any participating Kodak Express stores. · 10% discount on cash purchase of Kodak Easyshare V series, Z series and M series (available in Silicon Valley/ Camerahaus)
The Mabuhay Manor Hotel	· 20% Discount on Hotel Accommodations on cash or credit card (based on published rates) · 20% Discount on Food and Beverage products at Sutukil and Lola's Restaurant. · 10% Discount on Banquet Packages · 20% Discount on use of Swimming Pool

OFFERS	
Goldilocks	· Free 1 pc. Sandwich Bread 400 g. for a minimum single receipt worth P350.00
Chowking	· "Special Holiday Salo Set" for 4 persons for Western Union Gold card holders (total savings of P30.00)
Star City	· 20% discount on maximum of three (3) regular Ride-all-you-can tickets (not valid from December 20 - January 2)
The Look/ Crissa Boutique	·10% discount on all regular priced Crissa, Hotkiss, Redgirl, Bubblegum and Egojeans products availed in any participating The Look boutiques · 10% discount on all regular priced Crissa products availed in any participating Crissa boutiques

Promo duration is from October 1 to December 31, 2007.
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Goldilocks	5% discount on greeting cakes
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Stay in shape...

From page D1

tion plan. Members lost an average of 10.2 pounds in eight weeks.

The other group, without weekly behavior modification lessons, lost only an average of 2.6 pounds.

I believe every person can manage his/her own health even during a high-risk situation. You just need preparation and a renewed mind.

Try to practice the following weekly programs derived from effective psychological principles from today until the end of the year to stay in shape and achieve a renewed concept in approaching the holidays.

Weekly programs

Week 1: Set goals and prepare early.

Write down your goals as early as now, what you want to achieve in relation to your health, fitness level, weight and eating habits during and after the holidays.

Be realistic. The goal is to at least maintain weight during the holidays. If you lose, that is a bonus. In reality, we all want to enjoy gatherings and parties and food deprivation will just make you crave for more.

Plan your exercise schedule by considering dates of anticipated parties. Try your best to document food intake and activities.

Week 2: Ask for support and reinforce positive behaviors.

Find an exercise buddy and work out together. You may even reward who exercises the most during the six-week period with a smaller size exercise apparel.

You can train with your friends for sports like marathons or triathlons for the next year. This means at least three to six months of training.

If you start now, you will definitely remain active even during the holidays to be able to perform well for anticipated events.

Week 3: Avoid exposure to temptations.

During this period, you are most likely to shop for gifts and might order boxes of Christmas pastries as giveaways or gifts.

Stimulus control techniques include keeping food out of sight, out of mind. Buy gifts that will remind you and your loved ones of health and fitness so that you will stick to your goals and keep you away from temptations.

These include fitness books, exercise clothing, pedometer, heart rate monitors, gym bag, socks and gym memberships.

Week 4: Continue lifestyle activities.

Consider every movement as an exercise so you do not feel guilty if you miss planned exercise sessions. Whether you go to the gym or shop the whole day, remember that you burn calories.

Aim for 10,000 steps a day and incorporate two to three times a week of squats, pushups and crunches as resistance training.

Week 5: Practice healthy eating behavior.

Eat delicious but healthy this year. Practice eating on time and having something before the main meal like a piece of bread or fruit and drinking more water at least two to three hours before your meal to prevent bingeing.

Try a little of everything for satisfaction. Enjoy every bite and try to eat slowly while being mindful about the total amount of intake.

Week 6: Prepare for lapses.

Even if you did well from Weeks 1 to 5, lapses or slips are hard to prevent especially during *noche buena* or *media noche*. These are unplanned, unexpected situations that might cause you to revert to unhealthy behaviors and generate unrealistic thinking because you feel you "break the rules."

Prepare an alternative solution if lapses occur. For example, if you eat more than two slices of cake instead of one, make up for the extra 200-300 calories by adding a 300-calorie workout during the week or simply by learning from that experience and trying not to do the same by identifying possible causes like not eating on time or forgetting to be more assertive in family gatherings.

Share your "stay in shape this holiday season" experience!

E-mail the author at mitchfelipe@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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French Crullers
A delightful new twist
P15
DUNKIN' DONUTS

No truth to rumored Geneva-KC breakup

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

GENEVA CRUZ SHRUGS OFF rumors that she and hubby **KC Montero** have split up. "Based *na nga kami sa US para malayo sa intriga* and yet we're not spared," Gen says, laughing.

They celebrated Halloween garbed in costumes, with ex-husband **Paco Arrespacochaga** and his wife **Tiny**. "We have such a cool set-up and it makes our son **Heaven** all the more happy. He's a straight-A student. I'm blessed that KC's parents treat him like their own *apo talaga*. I'm not yet ready to have another kid. I wanna record an album first. KC understands that. A baby can wait for now."

KC wants them to settle in the US for good. "I can sing anywhere *naman*. It's sad that there's not much artistic growth for me in the Philippines."

If there's one thing that continues to grow wherever Gen and KC are, it's their devotion to each other.

Respect and fear

Based on the statements of **Piolo Pascual** and **Sam Milby** when they filed a P12 million libel suit against **Lolit Solis**, the following lines struck me: "I do not relish the idea of filing suit against a colleague in the industry, especially someone who is my senior and who was once worthy of my respect… Our offer of a simple retraction and apology has been met not with contrition and truth but with ridicule and contempt…

"The article, read in its entirety, shows that she herself was scandalized with what she saw. She pictures us in a romantic interlude awaiting the sunset, scampering like scared rabbits upon learning of her presence."

Those lines got me thinking about the thin line between respect and fear. Isn't it better to be considered an authority in your field out of respect instead of fear? And does an apology count if the one at fault refuses to wipe the slate clean? "Hello Garci!?"

Too busy to know

Guess who this female celeb is. An insider told me that when the celebrity was a guest at a ritzy hotel in the North, a big time gambler (Mr. L) took her on a chartered flight to Hong Kong. My source says, "I pity the actor linked to her now. He's too busy to know about her extra-curricular activities. He should ask her to let their love child undergo a DNA test."

Hmm… Can the actor proudly proclaim "The baby is mine!" or will someone else mind?

Tears and souvenirs?

Pops Fernandez's fans who will come in full force to watch her concert "Divalicious" at the Big Dome on Dec. 8 are due to get a collector's item souvenir program. It will feature rare photos of Pops, a timeline of her career highlights, a no-holds-barred interview, and messages from her close friends and family. It remains to be seen if **Martin Nievera** will be included in that memento.

Tears and souvenirs? How MADelicious!

Cinema I Originals

"Prinsesa" and "Confessional" are two films to watch out for at the Cinema One Originals digital film fest on Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Cinema 1 of Trinoma North Edsa Mall and Cinema 1 of Glorietta 4.

"Prinsesa" tackles the nuances of being a parent, and having to choose between the lure of the dollar and being with the family.

It stars Romnick Sarmienta and Shamaine Buencamino.

"Confessional" is a documentary drama where crimes of government authorities are exposed. It stars non-actors from Cebu—

NO TRUTH/ E2

GENEVA Cruz and KC Montero

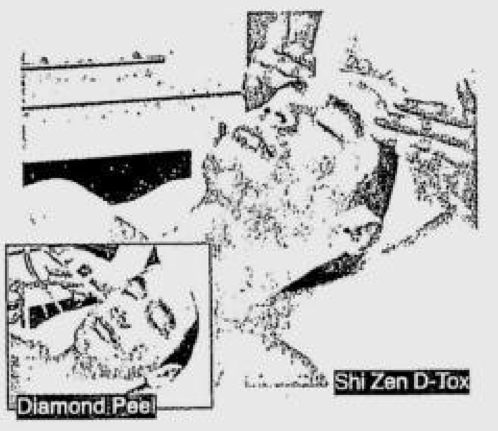
Do Your Looks Need An Upgrade?

In the age of computers, hi-tech gadgets and WIFI, new breakthroughs have started to emerge. You often upgrade your computer, but upgrading your looks? Well you'd be surprised. With the latest technological advancements in skincare, it is a definite possibility. With these new modern devices for the skin, being more attractive is just a few zaps away.

The system: **LightCure Acne Therapy.** A painless, non-surgical treatment that can treat all types of acne.
The guarantee: Pimple-free clear skin.
The process: The emission of exact wavelengths of light is used for the complete elimination of the acne bacteria at the source.

LightCure Acne Therapy

The system: **Diamond Peel.** A non-invasive way of removing the build-up of debris, dead cells, marks and other flaws on the skin.
The guarantee: No more acne scars, dark spots and blemishes.
The process: A diamond dust-coated wand is used to gently scrub off all the dead cells, surface dirt and build-up on the skin's topmost layer.



The system: **Shi Zen D-Tox.** An intensive, relaxing facial that destresses while treating the skin.
The guarantee: Refreshed, younger-looking skin cleared of impurities.
The process: Powerful ingredients like a detoxifying facial mask are used on the skin using Shiatsu massage techniques to aid in relaxation.

The system: **ReFirme.** An extremely popular non-invasive skincare treatment which redefines the concept of the "non-surgical facelift."
The guarantee: Firmer, tighter skin. No more sags and droops.
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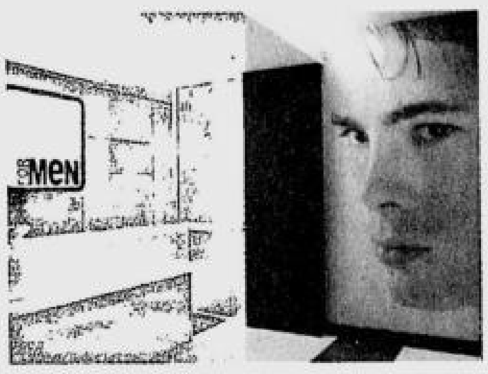

The system: **Advanced Lasertone.** The non-surgical wrinkle and line eraser.
The guarantee: Fine lines and wrinkles are significantly diminished.
The process: It uses a machine treatment to safely and effectively smoothen out those age signs.

Advanced Lasertone

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‘Rappers make good actors’

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WE LIKE WATCHING "THE ACtors Studio" on the ETC channel, because it features long interviews with some talented and articulate artists, who provide insights into the art of creating characters.

A recent highlight was a really perceptive interview of **Clint Eastwood**, who traced his amazing career from scruffy spaghetti westerns to the deeply significant films he directs these days.

Even more recently, program host **James Lipton** interviewed **Mark Wahlberg**, and the popular actor shared a surprising insight that we should think about: “Rappers make good actors!”

Why? Himself a former rapper, Wahlberg surmised that rappers’ acting advantage was the fact that they had generally “lived a lot.” So? So, they have a deep well of experiences and high and low emotional points to draw from when they act.

Even non-rappers can learn from those observations, if they want to become good actors: They need to *live* first before they can act.

Many would-be actors can’t cut it in the biz because all the have going for them is a pretty face and an ego as big as Miss Piggy’s porky butt.

The pretty face can only take you so far before its appeal palls. And the gargantuan ego is a big liability, because self-obsessed people don’t care for anybody else, so they can’t understand and empathize with other folks well enough to create believable and interesting characters when they act.

If you can get beyond the face and the ego, living “a lot” will expose you to a wide range of situations and characters that you need to have in order to become a productive and versatile actor.

If all you do is admire your pretty image in your bathroom mirror, you can’t understand other people—and the great depth and range of human nature itself.

That, in fact, is the raw material that actors must use and creatively process in order to do good acting work. Without it, you just end up playing little variations on yourself—and that can get boring for viewers pretty quick! Lesson learned. Thanks, Mr. Wahlberg.

Seinfeld returns

For years now, comedian **Jerry Seinfeld** has been wooed by many producers to stage a TV-film comeback, after almost 10 years of self-enforced retirement. But, the star comic has turned all those juicy offers down—because, quite frankly, he doesn’t need the money! Residuals from his hit TV show alone enable him to live the life of the rich and famous, so he doesn’t *have* to work.

But Seinfeld has finally capitulated, and has agreed to both star in and executive-produce a movie—only, it turns out to be an animated feature titled “The Bee Movie.”

The title harks back to “B-Movie,” the industry term for a cheap film—but there’s nothing cheap about Seinfeld’s comeback vehicle, which has a lot of visual gloss and witty dialogue going for it. No, the film is really about bees, and Seinfeld voice-acts the story’s main protagonist.

Advance buzz has it that the animated feature could end up as one of the year’s best, and could even be nominated for an Oscar.

However, some of Seinfeld’s fans are unhappy that they won’t be able to *see* their idol in his comeback vehicle. Why did he opt for such a tangential reentry into show business?

Well, maybe he wanted to ease back into his career, rather than taking the psychologically full-frontal approach? Whatever; show biz icons are entitled to their “strange” decisions, and we simply hope that Seinfeld’s comeback starrer is a honey of a film!

From page E1

No truth…

Publio Brioness III, **David Barril**, **Greg Fernandez**, **Donna Gimeno** and **Owee Silva**.

New FM station

Check out this new FM station. In an imaginary town called Maxville, listeners are called neighbors and everyone belongs to a village where radio becomes the extension of their daily lives. 103 ½ or 103.5 Max FM offers the missing spot as it filters negative things about Metro Manila and focuses on the positive while still being realistic.

PERSONAL:

Try the new yummy toppings at my “headquarters,” Watering Hole (Shangri-La Carpark Bldg Edsa), from 3-7 p.m. daily. For as low as P50, get a generous serving of chicken pastel or *lengua con setas* (my faves) and more.

E-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com.

MTRCB RATING R-13
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
This film contains cold-blooded action scenes that may not be suitable for the younger audience. Viewer discretion is advised

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ONE MORE CHANCE	12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:10	PG-13
THE NANNY DIARIES	3:45, 6:10	G
FRED CLAUS	8:35, 11:05	G

AT THE CINEMAS

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GLORIETTA 4	1 FRED CLAUS	2 THE KINGDOM	3 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPER BAD	5 THE GAME PLAN	6 ONE MORE CHANCE	7 THE NANNY DIARIES
GREENBELT 1	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BEOWULF					
GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	3 FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE NANNY DIARIES GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX BEOWULF	2 THE NANNY DIARIES	3 THE KINGDOM	4 SUPER BAD	5 FRED CLAUS		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 BEOWULF	2 SUPER BAD	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 BALLS OF FURY			
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 FRED CLAUS	3 SUPER BAD	4 BEOWULF	5 THE KINGDOM		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 THE NANNY DIARIES	3 FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE GAME PLAN / BOOGEYMAN 2	6 SUPER BAD	7 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS

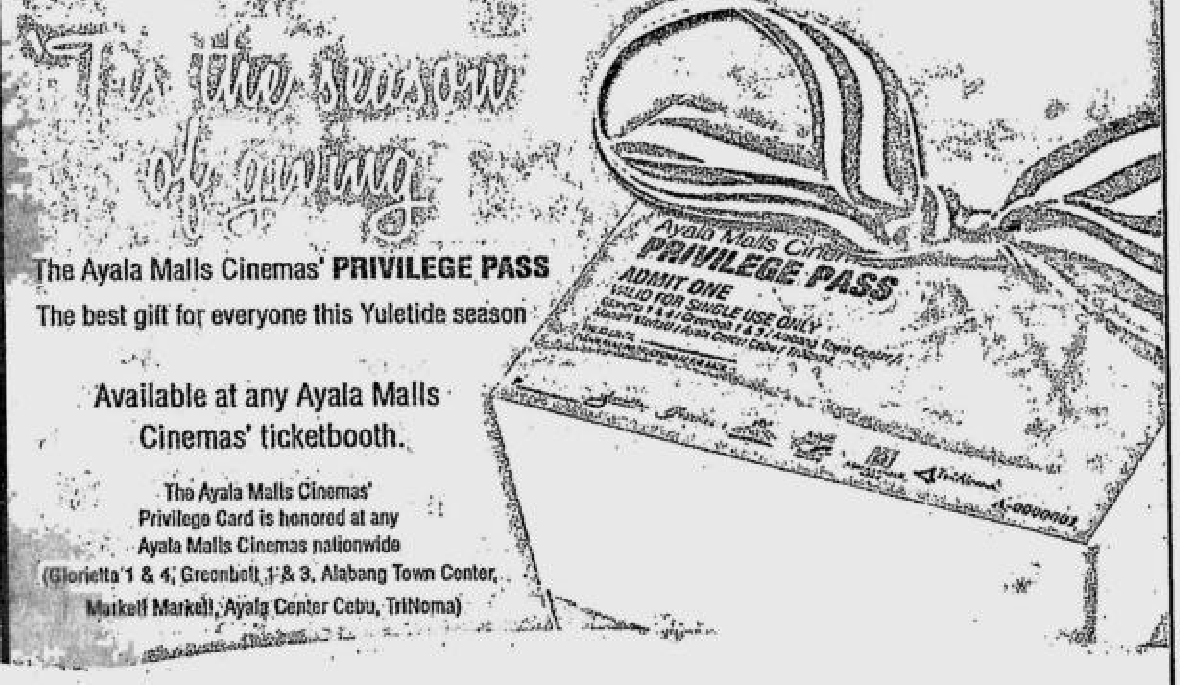
AT THE MALLS

Ayala Malls

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta	Sounds of Christmas: Christmas Chorale feat. Phil. Jesuit Community November 24; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park
GREENBELT	Holiday Open Concert November 24 & Dec 2; 8pm; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Seussical The Musical November 23 to 25; 11am, 3pm & 6pm; Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Metrobank Car Event November 24 to 25; Activity Center, Paseos and Rotunda Area
MARKET! MARKET!	Lifestyle and Vanity Outlet Sale November 19 to 23; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center Rhythm Academy: Pops Fernandez and The UP Cherubim and Seraphim December 16; 6pm; Activity Center

Fright Before X'mas
Join Cartoon Network at the Activity Center, Market! Market! on Sat, Nov 24!
Meet a Surprise Toon Star!
Plus Fun Games & Cool Prizes!
CARTOON NETWORK



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glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41

DOLBY DIGITAL

FRED CLAUS G 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:20,10:10	**ONE MORE CHANCE** PG13 12:10,2:40,5:10, 7:40,10:20	**BEOWULF** PG13 12:10,2:45,5:20, 7:55,10:30
THE KINGDOM R13 1:10,3:30,5:50, 8:10,10:30	**NANNY DIARIES** G 12:50,3:10,5:30,7:50	**SUPER BAD** R18 12:50,3:10

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SNEAKPREVIEWS

november 19 and 20

Robinsons Movieworld
GALLERIA
ERMITA
METRO EAST
NOVALICHES
PIONEER

REGULARShowing
november 28

MTRCB Rating: PG13

UNDER FIRE.
UNDER PRESSURE.
OUT OF TIME.
JAMIE FOXX
CHRIS COOPER
JENNIFER CARNER
THEKINGDOM

MTRCB Rating G | All Ages Admitted

THIS FAIRYTALE PRINCESS IS ABOUT TO MEET A REAL PRINCE CHARMING.

Walt Disney
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EnchantedMovie.com

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Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Araneta Center

aranetacenter.net

Gateway MALL FarmersPlaza

gatewaymall.com.ph

Gateway CINEPLEX*10

gatewaycineplex10.com

FULL STADIUM SEATING

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

ONE MORE CHANCE 12:30 / 12:55 / 1:25 / 3:15 3:40 / 4:10 / 6:00 / 6:25 6:55 / 8:45 / 9:10 / 9:40	**BEOWULF** 11:30 / 1:00 / 2:00 / 3:30 4:30 / 6:00 / 7:00 / 8:30 / 9:50	**BOOGEYMAN 2** 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	
	SNEAK PREVIEW : FRED CLAUSE 2:35 / 9:20	**NANNY DIARIES** 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX	**SNEAK PREVIEW : THE KINGDOM** 12:20 / 4:50 / 9:20	**SUPERBAD** 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30	**BEOWULF** 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ARANETA COLISEUM

www.aranetacoliseum.com

PBA GAMES
Nov. 21, Wednesday
4:50 pm PUREFOODS vs ALASKA 7:20 pm WELCOAT vs STA LUCIA

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
Nov 29, Thursday 8pm

TEN: PIOLO PASCUAL LIVE AT THE ARANETA
Nov. 30, Friday, 8pm

SKECHERS STREETDANCE BATTLE YEAR 3
Dec. 1, Saturday, 6 pm

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

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(even after several runs)

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10:30 A.M. • 1:30 P.M. • 4:30 P.M. • 7:30 P.M. • 10:30 P.M.

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SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX

BEOWULF 3D Admission Price: P400
12:30 PM • 3:00 PM • 7:00 PM • 9:30 PM
DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
11:00 AM • 5:30 PM

1 BEOWULF
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT/ THE KINGDOM
3 THE GAME PLAN/ FRED CLAUSE
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

PREMIERE CINEMA
ONE MORE CHANCE
CENTERSTAGE
LIONS FOR LAMBS
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
BEOWULF
CINEMA 2
THE NANNY DIARIES
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 BEOWULF (DIGITAL 3D)
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 THE NANNY DIARIES
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 THE KINGDOM
7 BEOWULF
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 FRED CLAUSE
10 BOOGEYMAN 2
11 ONE MORE CHANCE
12 LIONS FOR LAMBS

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 THE KINGDOM
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF
5 FRED CLAUSE
6 BEOWULF
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 THE GAME PLAN
10 ONE MORE CHANCE
11 THE NANNY DIARIES
12 LION FOR LAMBS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 BOOGEYMAN 2
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 BEOWULF
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 FRED CLAUSE
7 THE KINGDOM
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 THE GHOST SON
11 LIONS FOR LAMBS
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 FRED CLAUSE

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 BEOWULF
2 BOOGEYMAN 2
3 THE GAME PLAN/ THE KINGDOM
4 THE NANNY DIARIES/ FRED CLAUSE
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 FRED CLAUSE
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 THE NANNY DIARIES/ BOOGEYMAN 2

SM SOUTHMALL 806-8888

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT/ THE KINGDOM
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 LIONS FOR LAMBS/ FRED CLAUSE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 THE KINGDOM
2 FRED CLAUSE
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 THE GAME PLAN
5 BEOWULF
6 HIDE & SEEK
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 LIONS FOR LAMBS
9 THE NANNY DIARIES
10 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

NOW OPEN

SM SUPERCENTER MUNTINLUPA 523-9240

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 FRED CLAUSE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 BEOWULF
2 THE GAME PLAN
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 WE OWN THE NIGHT
6 RESERVED
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 GHOST SON/ FRED CLAUSE
11 BALLS OF FURY/ THE KINGDOM
12 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 THE KINGDOM

SM CINEMA

invite you to be among the first to watch
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THEKINGDOM

THE KINGDOM

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FRED CLAUS

Bacoor • Bicutan • Fairview • Mall of Asia • Manila • Megamall • Molino • Muntinlupa • North EDSA • San Lazaro • Southmall • Sta. Mesa • Sucat

REGULAR SHOWING STARTS NOVEMBER 28

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 BOOGEYMAN 2
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 HIDE & SEEK/ FRED CLAUSE
8 UNREST/ THE KINGDOM

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 THE GAME PLAN
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HIDE AND SEEK/ ONE MORE CHANCE
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 FRED CLAUSE
4 THE KINGDOM

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 BEOWULF
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

NOW OPEN

SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 THE GAME PLAN

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 HALLOWEEN

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 BEOWULF
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811

1 HIDE & SEEK
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER/ RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 BEOWULF
2 HIDE & SEEK
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 RETRIBUTION

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 BEOWULF
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 STARDUST
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 WE OWN THE NIGHT/ HAIRSPRAY

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3/ ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 RENDITION
5 BEOWULF
6 HIGHLANDER V
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 STARDUST
2 BEOWULF
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 HIGHLANDER V
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 BEOWULF

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING/ ONE MORE CHANCE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA

Ticket Price THX P180 130 indie Sine : 136 632-9116

1 BEOWULF • THX
2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

2 BEOWULF
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

3 FRED CLAUSE Sneak Preview
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 THE KINGDOM Sneak Preview
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

5 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 BOOGEYMAN 2
12:40 3:00 5:20

7 SUPERBAD
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

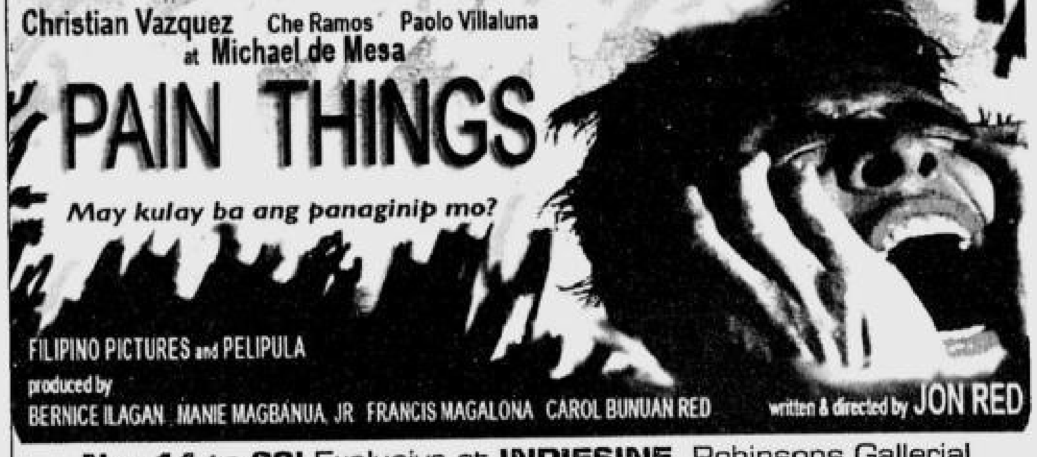
8 indieSine: PAIN THINGS
1:00 2:30 4:00 5:30 7:00 8:30

9 GAME PLAN
1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40

10 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

NOW SHOWING!

JON RED'S
PAIN THINGS


Christian Vazquez Che Ramos Paolo Villaluna at Michael de Mesa
PAIN THINGS
May kulay ba ang panaginip mo?

FILIPINO PICTURES and PELIPULA
produced by
BERNICE ILAGAN MANIE MAGBANUA, JR FRANCIS MAGALONA CAROL BUNUAN RED
written & directed by JON RED

Nov 14 to 20! Exclusive at **INDIESINE**, Robinsons Galleria!

ERMITA

Ticket Price: P110 / P120

1 FRED CLAUSE
Sneak Preview

2 BOOGEYMAN 2
11:10 1:25 3:40 5:55 8:05 10:00

3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
12:50 2:40 4:30 6:20 8:10 10:00

4 LUST CAUTION
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

5 ONE MORE CHANCE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

6 THE KINGDOM
Sneak Preview

7 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

Midtown

1 SUPERBAD
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 ONE MORE CHANCE
11:25 1:55 4:25 6:55 9:25

3 BEOWULF
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

Triba
BAWAL PUMASOK DITO

watch it only at Robinsons Movieworld **ERMITA November 21 to 27**

METRO EAST

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE KINGDOM
Sneak Preview

2 ONE MORE CHANCE
11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00

3 FRED CLAUS
Sneak Preview

4 BOOGEYMAN 2
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 SUPERBAD
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

6 LIONS FOR LAMBS
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 BEOWULF
10:50 1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

8 THE NANNY DIARIES
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:40 9:00

NOVALICHES

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 936-3231 / 936-3229-30

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 SUPERBAD
5 FRED CLAUS Sneak Preview
6 THE KINGDOM Sneak Preview

PIONEER

Ticket Price: P100 / P110 687-6378

1 THE KINGDOM Sneak Preview
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 FRED CLAUS Sneak Preview
4 BEOWULF

STA. ROSA

Ticket Price: P80 / P90
(049) 837-0907

1 BEOWULF
2 GHOST SON
3 SUPERBAD
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

LIPA

Ticket Price: P.90 (043) 757-3664
(043) 312-5870

1 HIGHLANDER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HALLOWEEN
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 SUPERBAD

DASMARIÑAS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90
(046) 416-4332

1 30 DAYS of NIGHT
2 BALLS of FURY
3 SUPERBAD
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

IMUS

Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188

1 BEOWULF
2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 SUPERBAD

ANGELES

Ticket Price: P90 / P95
(045) 892-2348

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 30 DAYS of NIGHT

TARLAC

1 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
2 APAT DAPAT DAPAT APAT
3 RENDITION

STARMILLS

Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (045) 875-1927

1 SUPERBAD
2 30 DAYS of NIGHT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 UNREST
5 BALLS of FURY
6 BEOWULF

BACOLOD

Ticket Price: P70
(034) 441-0459

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 indieSine: NUMBALIKDIWA
4 HALLOWEEN
5 SUPERBAD
6 UNREST

ILOILO

Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50
(033) 338-8070

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 HIGHLANDER
5 RENDITION
6 BALLS of FURY

MMTA
METRO MANILA
THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard Mandaluyong City

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
FRED CLAUS
4 THE KINGDOM

PREMIERE

SUPERBAD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati

Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

starmall EDSA-SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268150

3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 SUPER BAD
5

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 6433904

1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 UNREST

THEATRES

1 BALLS OF FURY
2 SUPER BAD
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-5271

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3
4

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 THE NANNY DAIRIES
2 BEOWULF
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BOOGEYMAN - 2
6 GAME PLAN
7 BEOWULF
8 BALLS OF FURY/WE OWN THE NIGHT
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 SUPER BAD

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

THE MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 LUST CAUTION
4 ATAUL FOR RENT

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 LUST CAUTION

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BEOWULF

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 STURDUST

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 SUPER BAD
2 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DAIRIES
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 SUPER BAD
4 HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 UNREST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1275

1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 SISID
3 TUKSO
4 RENDITION

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 XXX.CMM
3 BEOWULF
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 SUPER BAD

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 SUPER BAD
2 HIGHLANDER
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 PLEASE CALL
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

SHANG CINEPLEX

① BEOWULF
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

② ONE MORE CHANCE
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

③ THE NANNY DIARIES
MTRCB GP
12 20, 2:45, 5:10
FRED CLAUS
MTRCB GP 7:30, 10:00

④ THE KINGDOM
MTRCB PG-13
2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

PREMIERE THEATRE
SUPER BAD (R-18)
1:45, 4:10, 6:35, 9:00

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice

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or call 633-4735 for details

6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735
for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
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CINEMA 1
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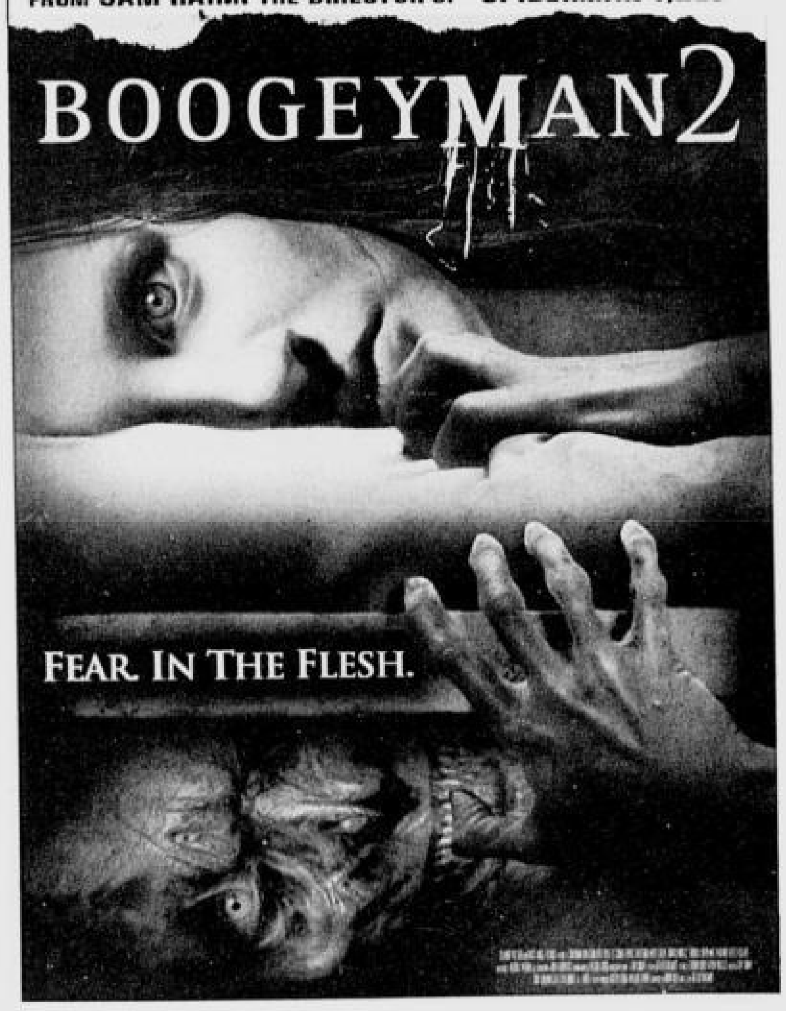

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WARNER BROS. PICTURES

RAY Winstone and Angelina Jolie

Mighty, flighty 'Beowulf'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THE LEGENDARY MONSTER-SLAYER Beowulf comes to life in the digitally animated film of the same name, a grand and visually opulent interpretation of the brave hero's astonishing feats and failures. "Beowulf," imaginatively co-written by Neil Gaiman (author of "Sandman" and "Stardust") and Roger Avary ("Pulp Fiction"), utilizes cutting-edge motion-capture technology and photo-realistic rendering.

REVIEW

This doesn't look nor feel like director Robert Zemeckis' previous animated feature "Polar Express" at all, as that family-oriented movie had an oddly creepy quality to it, inadvertently caused by stiff facial expressions. The imagery of "Beowulf" doesn't follow such a stylized look and atmosphere, and is steeped more in reality.

Like the real thing

There's a more expressive cast of characters that almost moves and looks like the real thing. The fantasy components, mainly the monsters, look solid and blend seamlessly into the environments.

Once you're done scrutinizing, or getting amazed by the animation, you'll be drawn into the story, a simple yet foreboding tale that enhances and makes sense of the original ancient poem. Beowulf (voiced and motion-acted by Ray Winstone), leading his Viking troops, travels to a Danish kingdom to hunt a grotesquery that's been plaguing it. The seemingly impervious giant, Grendel (Crispin Glover), had attacked the subjects of King Hrothgar (Anthony Hopkins), who survives the onslaught and subsequently welcomes the sea-faring adventurer's offer.

Beowulf and Grendel meet soon enough, and after their fateful battle, the monster's shape-changing mother (Angelina Jolie) joins the fray.

Jaw-dropping violence

"Beowulf" isn't the typical animated movie in that it has situations geared for more mature viewers, as illustrated by the occasionally suggestive dialogue and some brief nudity. There's also jaw-dropping violence during Grendel's intense attacks, which exhibit the urgency of the threat he poses. But these are aptly woven together, and the strength of the story and such details complement Zemeckis' vision.

Apart from the surface conflicts, there are deeper mythological themes at work, exposing and exploring the imperfections of the human characters. The mistakes of some distinguished ones—their shameful, secret betrayals—eventually cost them dearly, just as legends universally depict them. And Grendel's mother, who can transform into a lovely temptress, is both the object of desire and the trickster that threatens to ruin those who are vulnerable enough to succumb.

The drama is easy to follow; characters such as the suffering Queen Wealthow (Robin Wright-Penn), the suspicious Unferth (John Malkovich), and the love-struck maiden Ursula (Alison Lohman) serve as important foils that help define and develop Beowulf's character.

There are furious action sequences in "Beowulf" as well. It's also a sexy, rampaging epic that later challenges its viewer with an unusual denouement—but a pretty common one in fantastical myths—and might inspire discussions about the character's fallibility and integrity. Or maybe, they'll be about how real-looking and nubile Beowulf and Grendel's mother look.

Familiar, uninsightful moments

NEW YORK—HAVING SET THE standard for contemporary chick-lit adaptations, "The Devil Wears Prada" is a tough act to follow. The clothes, the attitude, the scene-stealing, Oscar-nominated work from Meryl Streep—anything would pale by comparison.

But "The Nanny Diaries" especially does, and it might have seemed like solid, sufficiently mindless summer entertainment otherwise.

REVIEW

Based on the 2002 guilty-pleasure read by former New York nannies Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus, the film has a strong cast (Scarlett Johansson, Laura Linney, Paul Giamatti) and fleeting moments of dead-on satire. It remains essentially true to the book with a few tweaks here and there, until it loses its bite and suddenly goes all soft and gushy at the end.

In rare regular-person mode, the va-va-voomy Johansson capably stars as Annie Braddock, a young woman who's unsure of what to do with her life after college. She wants to be an anthropologist, while her more practical mother (Donna Murphy) wants her to transcend her working-class New Jersey upbringing with a career in finance.

After a miserable job interview, Annie literally stumbles into a nanny gig for a posh couple on Manhattan's Upper East Side (Linney and Giamatti) and their bratty son, Grayer (Nicholas Reese Art). To protect the guilty, the couple has been dubbed Mr. and Mrs. X in both the book and the movie.

Mrs. X seems nice enough when they first cross paths, and Annie figures, why not live a luxurious life for a few months while I work through my post-academic agita? But Mom quickly reveals herself to be a control freak, with very specific ideas about how every moment of Grayer's days should be occupied (the Guggenheim, organic snacks and nothing that involves public transit or the West Side). Grayer is, of course, a tiny terror until the moment he does an abrupt about-face and becomes a playful, loving angel.

At the same time, Mrs. X is too busy shopping and lunching and planning fundraisers to take part in any of these activities herself, and Mr. X is so consumed with conquering the corporate world, he barely acknowledges that he has a wife and a son. With her fine patrician features, Linney is ideal for the role, and is enough of a subtle actress to reveal glimmers of vulnerability beneath the brittle, bony exterior. Giamatti might seem an odd choice given some of the shlubby parts he's played in the past, but he's so surprisingly good here, too, you wish his character weren't drawn so two-dimensionally.

NICHOLAS Art and Scarlett Johansson in "The Nanny Diaries"

Similar to "Prada," increasingly capricious demands and explosive pratfalls ensue. Annie, who's referred to throughout as the more generic Nanny, repeatedly makes a fool of herself in front of the cute boy upstairs, known only as Harvard Hottie (Chris Evans from the "Fantastic Four" movies). And her sassy best friend (an underused Alicia Keys) is relegated to looking on disapprovingly at the mess Annie has gotten herself into.

Anyone could have directed this material; "The Nanny Diaries" wasn't exactly great literature. So the real letdown comes from knowing that the film is from Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini, the husband-and-wife writing-directing team behind the thrillingly inventive "American Splendor," which also starred Giamatti as comic-book writer Harvey Pekar.

Here, their collaborative creative abilities seem to have been watered down and squelched to appeal to the widest possible audience. They tried to inject some visual whimsy into the story by depicting these rich, white people run amok as if they were species to be studied in diorama form at the Museum of Natural History. But the use of a "Mary Poppins"-style red umbrella (an image from the book's cover) feels like too obvious a metaphor.

While Berman and Pulcini vividly depict a glossy New York, a city they both clearly know well, they don't provide any fresh or nuanced insights into the class disparities that exist there: "Dear Diary, The rich are different. The end."

Christy Lemire, AP

BOOTS Anson-Roa and her late husband Pete

The Prime of Boots

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Widow celebrates husband's life by putting up a foundation for his advocacies

BOOTS ANSON-ROA CALLED husband Pete her mentor. After his death, she is still learning from him.

She recounted that Pete's "catalogue of illnesses" strengthened their relationship. That after enduring strokes, glaucoma, emphysema and cancer, Pete showed her the true meaning of "patience, silent suffering and undaunted faith."

In his darkest hour, Pete still thought of others, Boots recalled. "My son-in-law [Antipolo Rep.] Robbie Puno asked him what we should do with the money we had saved for his hospitalization needs. Pete answered: Make it available to those in need."

With this modest seed fund, Boots is honoring Pete's wish by putting up the foundation Prime—or Pete Roa Integrated Media Endeavors.

According to Boots, Prime is focusing on her late husband's main advocacies.

Prime is linking up with the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), to pursue a lecture and workshop series on broadcast education.

Also in the works is an "adjunct program" for stroke patients who are members of the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund), of which Boots is the executive director.

Espiridion Laxa, Mowelfund chair, welcomed Prime's initiative. "Our organization doesn't have enough funds. Prime's project will help provide financial assistance to our members who have suffered from stroke."

Pete was a stroke survivor for 10 years before succumbing to his ailments on Aug. 9.

Prime is also mounting a drama play on the life of Pete's patron, St. Pio, written and directed by INQUIRER columnist Nestor Torre.

The play is set to premiere on Jan. 16, to mark Pete's 68th birthday. His family also plans to launch Prime's other projects in the week of his birthday.

Torre, who sits in Prime's board, related that he directed Pete and Boots in the stage play "The Owl and the Pussycat" in the 1970s. "It was Boots' first onstage kiss and bed scene. But it was with her husband."

Torre said Boots would play the mother of Padre Pio, to be portrayed by Ricky Davao and Johnny Delgado, in the new stage production.

Prime's board is composed of the Roa family's nearest and dearest: Torre, lawyer Raffy Evangelista, Jose Mari Chan, Marichu Maceda, Dr. Bong Aquino, Fred de la Rosa, Bibsy Carballo and Ed Roa.

'Kitchen Confidential' whets appetites

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

LIKE AMERICAN DRAMAS "ER" AND "SIX Feet Under," the short-lived comedy series "Kitchen Confidential" (ETC, Fridays, 8:30 p.m.) humanizes and celebrates people behind the featured professions. But the similarities end there, as this show's obviously and appropriately light and feel-good.

The half-hour weekly series, based on Anthony Bourdain's book, pleasingly concocts a rich cornucopia of work dynamics in a classy restaurant's kitchen, while serving up a flavorful assortment of personalities and eccentricities through its kooky cooks and other employees.

REVIEW

Actor Bradley Cooper plays an exceptionally gifted chef, Jack Bourdain, who owns up to his vice-ridden past. With the alcohol, drugs and promiscuity (mostly) behind him, his shot at redemption presents itself when he's hired by a respected restaurateur (Frank Langella). Jack soon assembles his motley crew of culinary experts, rowdy old colleagues with specialties, and yes, personality kinks.

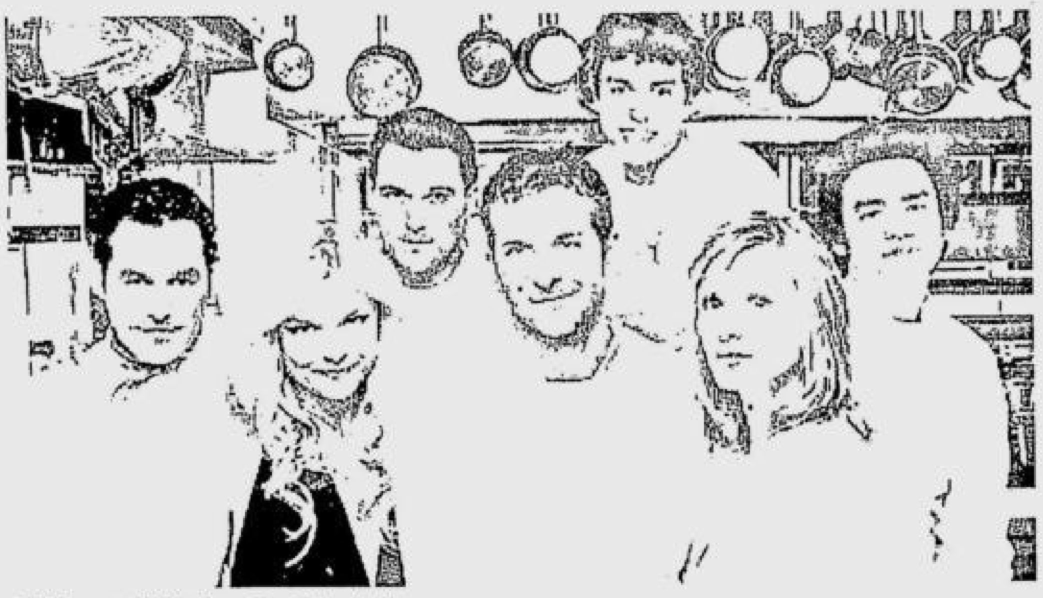
His lovable comrades-in-cutlery at Nolita include the thuggish Sous chef Steven (Owain Yeoman), pastry chef Seth (Nicholas Brendon), seafood chef Teddy (John Cho) and klutzy rookie chef Jim (John Francis Daley).

Jack summed up the show's concept precisely in one of the episodes: "Here's the thing about a great restaurant. It's like great theater. It's our job to dazzle you, amaze you, delight you... while keeping you totally ignorant of the Hiroshima going on backstage!"

And the Nolita kitchen holds many secrets, especially when work and play mix. The foibles and fixations of the naughty but devoted kitchen staff, and the food-life metaphors add up to a winning recipe.

Jack, winning over new fans—some of whom throw themselves at him—is loathed by the boss' daughter and floor captain, Mimi (Bonnie Somerville). The workplace is also a place rife with the occasional wacky rivalries, pranks, accidents, and for a time, sexual tension caused by the inclusion of a competitive female chef.

Like in recent cooking-oriented films "Ratatouille" and "No Reservations," the artistes in "Kitchen Confidential" pour a lot into their craft. So it's also attractive that apart from quick wit through snappy character interaction, the simulation of painstaking artistry behind the scenes is a key ingredient.



THE cast of "Kitchen Confidential"

The partakers of their meals, naturally, are a quirky assortment. Jack's former lovers, as well as food critics and an old mentor, among others, are some of the tougher customers the restaurant's had. Also, one of the funnier episodes involves an escalating "war," as a prized dish gets stolen and copied by the competition. Interestingly, the sneaky but charming French chef rival is played by Michael Vartan, Cooper's former "Alias" co-star.

"Sex and the City's" Darren Star contributes as pilot director and executive producer. The show manages to skillfully cram in Jack's running recovery story line with the theme of the week and supporting characters' subplots in less than 30 minutes per episode. Too bad the show was cancelled abroad; its 13 episodes almost effortlessly established a solid, sumptuous and sexy take on the restaurant biz.

While it didn't last, and was unable to explore other promising story possibilities, "Kitchen Confidential" is still a satisfying, filling course, and its limited run makes it all the more special.

SNEAK PREVIEWS
November
19 & 20
galleria ermita
metro east
novaliches
pioneer
REGULAR Showing
november 28
MTRCB
Rating: PG13

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www.fredclausmovie.co.uk

RP an alternative Bollywood film site

By Marinel R. Cruz

FIVE INDIAN PRODUCERS will arrive in Manila on Dec. 4 for a week-long visit to see whether the Philippines could be an alternative site for producing Bollywood films.

This was announced by Digna Santiago, chair of the newly formed Philippine Film Export Services Office (PFESO), created solely to promote the country as an attractive film site.

The PFESO is the services arm of the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

The visit, which is part of the Department of Tourism's "Film Tourism" project, was also made in response to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's invitation to foreign filmmakers to consider the Philippines as a place to make movies during the Indian-Filipino business forum she attended in October, said Santiago.

The film producers scheduled to join the DOT's familiarization tour are Milind Soman of Face Entertainment, Aditya Raj Kapoor of Aditya Raj Kapoor Films, Yusuf Shaikh of Maverick Productions and Anil Bohra and Vivek Bohra of Bohra Productions.

Part of their visit is a meet-and-greet with the major players of the local film industry, Santiago told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday.

DIGNA Santiago

JACKY Atienza

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

The Indian producers will also pay a courtesy call on the offices of Ace Durano, Tourism secretary, Vic del Rosario, presidential consultant for entertainment and Jacky Atienza, FDCP chair.

A visit to technical service providers like Optima Digital, Star Lab and Roadrunner in Makati City is scheduled on their third day, added Santiago.

The DOT will also bring the group to scenic places in Olongapo, Bohol, Boracay and Cebu. "They might consider shooting jungle scenes in our forest in Subic, or the action scenes in industrial areas there," explained Santiago. "We are also hoping to bring them to lahar country, Pampanga, where they could shoot futuristic films."

Santiago also pointed out that the PFESO has been preparing for an "exhaustive" catalogue of services, including price estimates of various post-production and animation houses, equipment rentals and hotel room rates.

The PFESO will represent the country in the Asia Film Market and Conference (AFMC) slated from Nov. 27 to 28 in Singapore.

The conference will discuss, among other things, content protection, mobile TV, content partnerships and sports content.

According to Santiago, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye will be there for the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Philippine and Singaporean government.

The Philippine delegate will then go to Malaysia for the Creative Multimedia Content Expo 2007, an event that will showcase various components related to film, animation and broadcast. It will be held from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2.

The FDCP is subsidizing the cost of the trade booth at the Malaysian fair.

ABC 5 bags 'Asian Idol'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ALTHOUGH ABC 5 HAS LOST THE FRANchise for "Philippine Idol" to GMA 7, it is sending first season champion Mau Marcelo to the regional tilt "Asian Idol" to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia, next month.

"It's a fitting finale for our 'Idol' run," explained Perci Intalan, head of Creative and Entertainment Production of ABC 5. "We kept our promise. From the start, our goal had always been to allow local talents to shine abroad."

Intalan told INQUIRER Entertainment that ABC 5 had sealed the deal with Geraldine Bravo, director of Marketing and Sales of FremantleMedia, franchise holder of the "Idol" series, on Wednesday.

According to Intalan, Marcelo is competing with representatives from five other Asian countries that air local versions of the international singing competition: Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Singapore and Vietnam.

In an earlier interview, Bobby Barreiro told the INQUIRER that Indonesian network RCTI is hosting and mounting "Asian Idol."

Barreiro also said "RP Idol" main juror Ryan Cayabyab had been invited to judge in the regional contest.

Jakarta-bound

According to an insider, juror Pilita Corrales will go to Jakarta because Cayabyab is now part of ABS-CBN's "Pinoy Dream Academy."

Intalan said ABC 5 is still ironing out the details of the country's participation.

But ABC 5 is airing the contest's primer "Road to Asian Idol," which offers a behind-the-scenes look at all the contestants, on Dec. 8, said Intalan.

ABC 5 is also airing the two-night "Asian Idol" special: the performance night on Dec. 15 and the results night on Dec. 16.

According to Intalan, Filipinos are allowed to vote for the "Asian Idol" winner via text. "Each voter is asked to send the names of two people—his compatriot and another contestant—to ensure a level playing field.

Barreiro pointed out that ABC 5 had actively pursued the "Idol" franchise because of its "potential to create an Asian superstar from the Philippines."

"Mau definitely has what it takes to compete internationally," Intalan noted.

"Mixed emotions," Marcelo described her initial reaction. "I'm happy, flattered and nervous. It's unexpected, but I'm proud to represent the country."

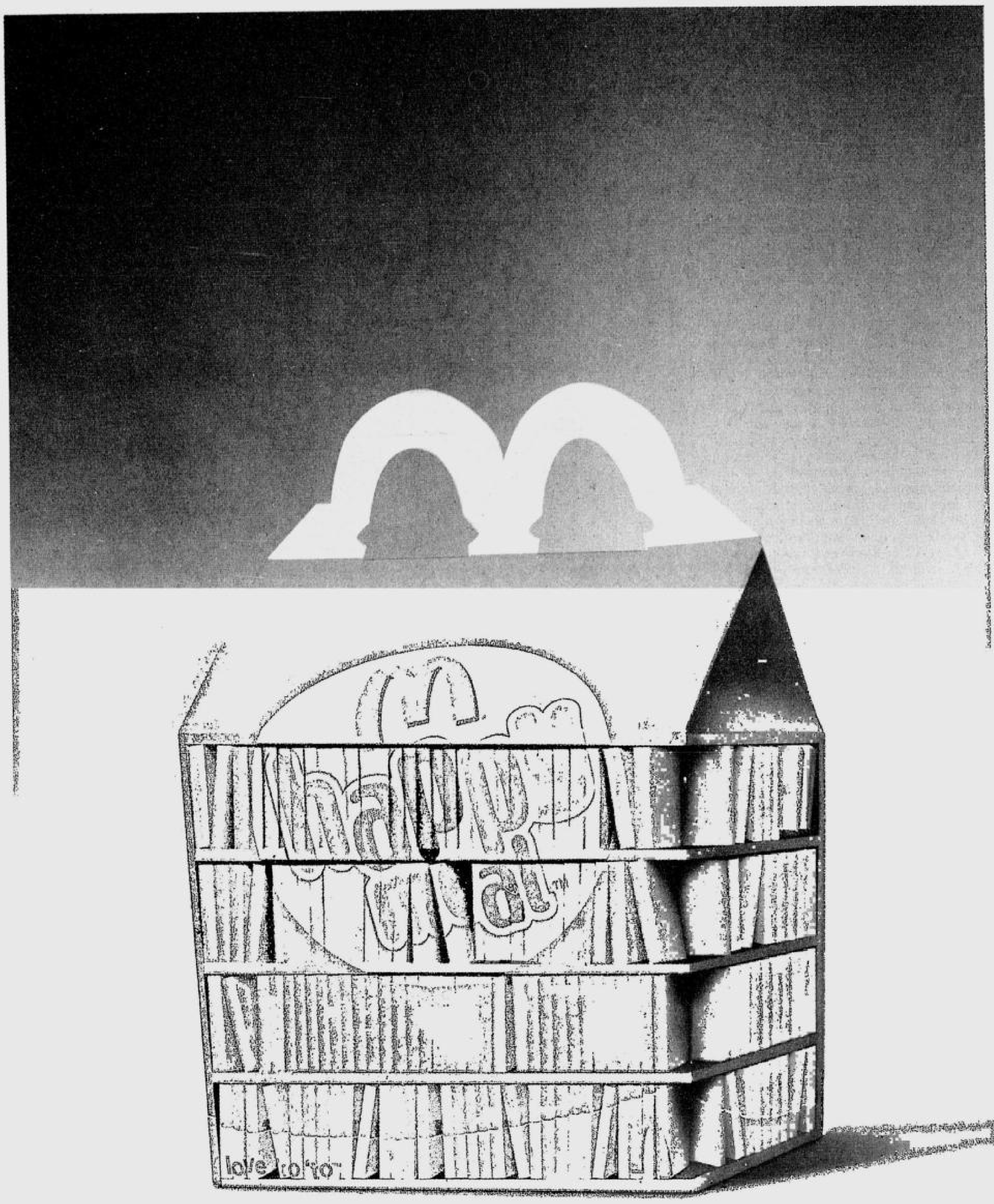
WEEKEND BOX OFFICE

Top 10 movies at the North American box office for the three-day weekend beginning Nov. 9

Bee Movie, Paramount (DreamWorks)

TW	LW	Title	Total gross	WR
1	2	Bee Movie	$ 26.0 mln	2
2	1	American Gangster	$ 24.3 mln	2
3	☆	Fred Claus	$ 19.2 mln	1
4	☆	Lions for Lambs	$ 6.7 mln	1
5	4	Dan in Real Life	$ 5.9 mln	3
6	3	Saw IV	$ 5.0 mln	3
7	5	The Game Plan	$ 2.4 mln	7
8	☆	P2	$ 2.2 mln	1
9	6	30 Days of Night	$ 2.1 mln	4
10	7	Martian Child	$ 1.8 mln	2

TW This week ☆ New WR Weeks



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